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PREPARE
• Read the Leader Bible Study and Bible story, including the Christ Connection. For additional help for preparing, visit www.gospelproject.com.
• Familiarize yourself with the session content, noting which activity options will work best in your context.
• Gather and prepare session supplies, including posters, videos, and activity printables as needed.
• Contact families and pray for your kids during the week.

WELCOME
• Greet kids as they arrive, build relationships, and help new kids connect to the group.
• Guide kids to complete the Activity Page, and choose one of the Session Starter Activities to introduce this week’s story.

LEARN
• Help kids understand the Bible story and how it relates to God’s big story of Scripture. During this portion of the session, focus on what the kids should believe—what God wants our kids to know about the Bible story, Big Picture Question and Answer, and Key Passage.

LOVE
• Help kids respond appropriately to the Bible story by growing in their love for God and considering how to apply it to their own lives. During this portion of the session, focus on what the kids should feel—how God wants our kids to respond based on what they believe.

LIVE
• Help kids find ways to live on mission and make much of God in response to the Bible story. During this portion of the session, focus on what the kids should do—how God wants our kids to be different based on what they know about God and their growing love for Him.
Suggested Times
Each session is designed to be completed in 60–75 minutes but can be shortened or lengthened as needed.

Missions
The missions content is designed to help kids understand God’s ongoing mission to rescue sinners around the world. This content can be customized or replaced with your church’s own missions efforts if desired.

Big Truth Sessions
Each unit ends with a Big Truth Session that goes into more depth of the unit’s Big Picture Question and Answer. These sessions use a Bible story that best helps illustrate the Big Truth covered. Think of these sessions as a time to reinforce and clarify what the kids have been learning in the unit.

Make it fit
Each session provides flexibility for customization based on the needs and structure of your kids ministry. The Learn portion contains most, or all, of the videos and music, making it ideal for a large group gathering with the Welcome, Love, and Live portions working well for small groups. Alternatively, the entire session can be completed in small groups or as one large group.

Printables, Videos, and Music
Here is where you will be able to find all of the resources you will need:

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<tr>
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From the exodus into the wilderness, God remained faithful to His promises. The law further displayed God’s faithfulness and that worship exists so we can celebrate God’s goodness. God’s holy, merciful, and loving nature is worthy of all our praise.

**UNIT 4: OUT OF EGYPT**

Many years had passed since God used Joseph to rescue His people from a famine by bringing them into Egypt. Now, however, God’s people were in bondage and needed to be rescued. God raised up a new rescuer, Moses, to deliver His people out of Egypt and lead them back to the promised land.

Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.
UNIT 5: INTO THE WILDERNESS: Through a series of miracles, God had delivered His people from bondage in Egypt. The Israelites headed into the wilderness on their way to the land of promise. Their journey, however, was not just to move them from one place to another; it was also to be a time when their hearts were to be moved in worship for their God, their true Rescuer.

What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

UNIT 6: AWAY FROM THE LAND: When God’s people arrived at the border of the promised land, they did the unthinkable: they disbelieved God’s faithfulness and disobeyed His command by refusing to enter. As a result, God forced His people away from the land to wander in the wilderness where they continued in their disbelief and sin against a good, loving, and holy God.

What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.
UNIT 4 | SESSION 1

GOD CALLED MOSES
EXODUS 1–4

KEY PASSAGE:
Numbers 23:19

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

CHRIST CONNECTION:
God saved Moses’ life and called him to rescue God’s people from slavery. The calling of Moses points to a greater calling and rescue—the call of Jesus to come to earth to save God’s people. Jesus gave up His life to save us from slavery to sin.
LEADER Bible Study

Moses’ life was in danger from the moment he was born. He was an Israelite—a descendant of Israel (Jacob)—living in Egypt after Jacob’s family had moved there, seeking food during a famine.

Four hundred years later, this family had grown and multiplied. Moses’ parents, Amram and Jochebed, likely lived in fear of the pharaoh who ruled Egypt and took drastic measures to oppress the Israelites. Could God’s promises for His people stand against such opposition?

Jochebed hid her baby boy as long as she could—about three months—before she put him in a basket among the reeds of the river. She couldn’t have known that Pharaoh’s daughter would find him and want to raise him as her own, or that the princess would let Jochebed care for him until he was old enough to be raised as an Egyptian prince. She couldn’t have known that her son would grow up to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt. But God knew. All along, God had a plan for Moses and His people.

God appeared to Moses years later. Moses was a shepherd then, having grown up in Egypt’s royal household only to flee as a murderer to Midian. There, Moses started a family and worked as a shepherd, perhaps never imagining he would see Egypt again.

But one night, God drew a curious Moses to Himself and spoke through a burning bush. You see, God remembered the promise He made to Eve in Genesis 3. He remembered His covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12, which He repeated to Isaac and Jacob. So many years had passed, but God remembered His promises.

Moses was inadequate for the task of rescuing the Israelites, but God promised His power and presence. So in the early chapters of Exodus, we see Moses return to Egypt to confront Pharaoh—acting as a mediator between the Israelites and their burdensome king.

As you consider Moses’ calling, look forward to an even greater calling and rescue—the call of Jesus to come to earth to save God’s people from their sin. Jesus is greater than Moses. Moses delivered God’s people from physical captivity; Jesus delivers God’s people from captivity to sin and death.
GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.
Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| SAY | If you grew up as a prince or princess, what is one thing you would do? |

ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Message in the Maze” on the activity page.

| SAY | When you make a promise, do you always keep it perfectly? Probably not. We may forget to clean our rooms like we promised. What about God? Do you think He ever fails to keep a promise? God always keeps His promises. We’ll see an example of God’s faithfulness in today’s Bible story. |

SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1: GOD SAVES GAME**

Choose one person to be “Pharaoh” and one person to be “Mom.” The other kids will represent the Nile River. Give Mom a small basket, and direct Pharaoh to close his eyes. While everyone is still, Mom has 10 seconds to hide the basket from Pharaoh. She could hide the basket somewhere in the room or with one of the kids.

Count down from 10. Let Pharaoh open his eyes and try to find the basket. When Pharaoh finds the basket or 30 seconds is up, reassign roles and repeat.

| SAY | In today’s Bible story, we will hear about a mother who did everything she could to keep her baby safe from Pharaoh, the king in Egypt. She put him in a basket at the edge of the Nile River. We will see how God kept the baby safe. God had a plan to rescue His people from Pharaoh and from slavery in Egypt. |

**OPTION 2: SANDAL RELAY**

Form two teams of kids, and instruct each team to form a single-file line. Give the last player in each line a pair of sandals.

Explain that when you say go, the last player will pass the sandals over the head of the player in front of her. That player will pass them under the player in front of him. Kids will continue to pass the sandals over and under until they reach the front of the line. The player at the front will slip them on his hands, bear walk to the back of the line, and then pass them over the head of the player in front of him.

Continue until every player has had a turn moving to the back. If teams are uneven, assign a player on the team with fewer players to go twice.

| SAY | In the Bible story we will hear today, God told someone to take off his sandals. Why would He do that? Listen carefully to the story to find out. |
INTRODUCE the Bible Story

INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)
Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY Hello, everyone! I'm [your name], and I am so glad to see you. If you have your Bible with you today, hold it up! [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us the wonderful story of God’s plan to rescue sinners.

Have you ever thought that the Bible is too long or too old or too hard to understand? Maybe you aren’t even sure what the Bible is about, or maybe you’ve heard stories from the Bible since you were little. No matter how familiar or unfamiliar you are with the Bible, I am excited for you to join me each week as we learn more about God—who keeps His promises—and about the good news He has for us.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY Today and over the next few weeks, we are going to be thinking about a big picture question. The big picture question helps us learn and remember something that is true about God or ourselves. It reminds us that beyond the smaller details of a Bible story, God is working out a greater plan.

Our big picture question is, Does God keep His promises? What do you think? [Allow kids to respond.] Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful. Because God keeps His promises, we know that we can trust Him. Let’s say our big picture question and answer together: Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

REVIEW THE TIMELINE (2 minutes)
Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY We started with the first book of the Bible, Genesis, which means ‘beginning.’ In the beginning, God created everything for His glory. He made people in His image. When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, God revealed His plan to bring people back to Himself through a descendant—His own Son.

Today’s Bible story comes from the second book of the Bible: Exodus. Exodus means ‘departure.’ In the stories from Exodus, we will see how God remained faithful to His promises. Many years had passed since God used Joseph to rescue His people from a famine by bringing them into Egypt. Now, however, God’s people were enslaved and needed to be set free. God raised up a new rescuer to deliver His people out of Egypt and lead them to the promised land. We’ll see how this all started in our story, ‘God Called Moses.’
LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Exodus 1–4. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Called Moses.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD CALLED MOSES

Joseph’s family in Egypt grew even after Joseph, his brothers, and their families died. All the people in this family were known as Israelites because they came from Joseph’s father Jacob, who was also called Israel.

When a new pharaoh came to power in Egypt, he was afraid of the Israelites. Pharaoh worried they would all fight against him. So Pharaoh made the Israelites slaves and gave them very hard work to do. Still, their families grew. So Pharaoh ordered for all their baby boys to be killed.

Around this time, a woman gave birth to a son. She hid him as long as she could, and then she put him in a basket and set it along the bank of the Nile River. Soon Pharaoh’s daughter went to the river to take a bath. She found the baby and felt sorry for him. Pharaoh’s daughter wanted the baby to be her son.

The princess named the baby Moses.

Moses grew up as a prince in Egypt. One day, he saw an Egyptian man mistreating an Israelite man. Moses killed the Egyptian and fled from Egypt.

He worked as a shepherd in another land for many years. Back in Egypt, the Israelite people were miserable. They cried out to God, and God heard them. He had a plan to help them.

One day, Moses saw a bush on fire. The bush was not burning up! Suddenly, God called from the bush: “Moses, Moses!”

Moses replied, “Here I am.”

God told Moses to take off his sandals because Moses was standing on holy ground. Then God said, “I have seen how My people are suffering. I want you to lead them out of Egypt to a good land I have for them.”

“What if they ask for Your name?” Moses asked. “What should I tell them?”

“I AM WHO I AM,” God said. “Tell them: I AM has sent me to you.”

“What if they don’t believe me?” Moses asked.

So God gave Moses three miraculous signs to prove that God had appeared to him: Moses’ staff would turn into a snake, his hand would become diseased and then healed, and water from the river would turn into blood. But Moses still made excuses. He said, “Please send someone else.” God was angry but agreed to send Moses’ brother, Aaron, with him. So Moses went to Egypt.
Christ Connection: God saved Moses’ life and called him to rescue God’s people from slavery. The calling of Moses points to a greater calling and rescue—the call of Jesus to come to earth to save God’s people. Jesus gave up His life to save us from slavery to sin.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY Wow! What a story. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for 400 years. Life under Pharaoh was hard. How do you think Jochebed (JAHK uh bed)—Moses’ mom—felt when she held him in her arms as a baby? [Allow kids to respond.] She was probably afraid that he would have a hard life too, or even be killed. She hid her baby in a basket, and Moses was discovered and adopted by Pharaoh’s daughter. So Moses grew up in the palace as part of Pharaoh’s family. God protected baby Moses and had a plan for him.

What happened that caused Moses to leave Egypt? (Moses killed an Egyptian.) He fled to the wilderness. When Moses was 80 years old, God spoke to him through what? (a burning bush) [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Ex. 3:7-9.] God called Moses to confront Pharaoh and deliver the Israelites from Egypt. Was Moses willing to go? Not exactly. Moses made excuses and even asked God to send someone else. But God promised He would go with Moses, and He told Moses what to say. When Moses still felt afraid, God allowed him to take his brother, Aaron, with him. God had rescued Moses as a baby to be part of His plan to lead the Israelites from captivity, and God would be with Moses the entire way.

What do we learn about God in these chapters? [Allow kids to respond.] We learn that God is faithful, that He hears us, and that He is in control. We also learn God’s name. What did God tell Moses to call Him when speaking to the Israelites? Look at Exodus 3:14-15. [Choose a volunteer to read the passage aloud.]

God said His name was “I AM WHO I AM.” Sometimes it is translated or written as “I AM BECAUSE I AM” or “I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE.” All three answers describe that God is sovereign and He never changes. Sovereign means that God is in control and will accomplish or do whatever is pleasing to Him. By telling Moses His name, God reminded Moses of how great He is and that He is in control.

Open your Bible to Exodus 2:23-24. [Choose a volunteer to read the verses aloud.] God kept His promise to Abraham. When the Israelites called out to God in their suffering, God had a plan to give them the land He promised Abraham. Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY God saved Moses’ life and called him to rescue God’s people from slavery. The calling of Moses points to a greater calling and rescue—the call of Jesus to come to earth to save God’s people. Jesus gave up His life to save us from slavery to sin.

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)
QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)
Show the “Unit 4, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:
1. Why did God say His name is “I AM”? What does that mean?
2. Do you know any other names for God? What do they mean?

MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)
SAY Today, we heard the story of how God called Moses to take a message to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Thousands of years later, Jesus rose from the dead and called His followers to deliver a message to the whole world. He told them to go and teach people about Him in all of the different nations. This calling is known as the Great Commission. Jesus wants people all over the world to know Him and worship Him. Today, we’re going to meet a family who followed Jesus’ instructions by going to be missionaries in a country called Tanzania, which is in Africa.

Show Tanzania on a world map. Then play the missions video. Guide the kids to name some ways that they can pray for the McDonald family. Pray for the McDonalds, the people of Tanzania, and any missionaries your church supports.

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)
Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Numbers 23:19 together.

SAY In today’s Bible story, God did miracles to show Moses He would keep His word. Our key passage reminds us that God does what He says He will do.

Instruct each kid to take a turn reading the key passage in a silly voice she chooses (sing-song like a bird, high-pitched like a mouse, growling like a lion, etc.). Remind the kids that God has a plan for us whether we feel weak like a mouse or strong like a lion, and He will be faithful to do what He promises.

Lead kids to sing “Unchanging God (Numbers 23:19).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

PRAY (2 minutes)
Invite kids to pray before transitioning from LEARN to LOVE.

SAY God, You are constant and always keep Your word. Thank You for hearing us when we pray to You and for comforting us when we are afraid. Help us to faithfully keep our promises like You keep Yours. Amen.

Transition from LEARN to LOVE
LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)
Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 4. Explain that Moses was born in Egypt (H7). When he killed an Egyptian and fled, he went east to Midian (I7). Canaan, the land God promised to Abraham, was north of Midian. The Midianites were distantly related to the Israelites.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the northwest area of Saudi Arabia.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 4:5.

**SAY** God called Moses out of Midian to go back to Egypt and deliver the Israelites. Why?
Because God always keeps His promises. Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)
Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| SAY | What has God promised us in His Word? |
Remind kids that God had a plan for Moses’ life. God used many miracles to show that He is who He says He is and remind Moses of all the promises God kept in the past. Lead kids to recognize that just like God kept His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God kept His promise to us by sending His Son, Jesus.

(Optional: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 2:25.)

| SAY | What are some other times God kept His promises? |
Invite kids to think of other times in the Bible when God kept His promises. Lead kids to share their own experiences when God kept His promise. Reflect on how remembering God’s faithfulness can help us feel about the future.

(Optional: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Cor. 1:20.)

| SAY | What are some excuses we make when we don’t want to obey God? |
Encourage kids to share their thoughts. Point out that God encouraged Moses with signs that He was with him. Remind kids that we can trust God to keep His promises, so we don’t have to be afraid.

(Optional: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 2:17.)
**LIVE the Mission**

1. **ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)**

- **OPTION 1: MEDICAL MISSIONS THEATER**
  
  Before the session, use a permanent marker to write Pray for the McDonalds on the wrappers of adhesive bandages. Prepare one per kid. Choose a volunteer to draw a “Medical Missions Theater” card and act out the medical treatment on the card. The rest of the group will try to guess the treatment. When someone guesses correctly, he becomes the next actor. Ask the kids to name things that might be difficult about moving from their home to another country.

  **SAY**  
  When God called Moses to go to Egypt, Moses made excuses because he was afraid. It probably wasn’t easy for the McDonalds to leave their life in the US, but they chose to obey God and use their medical training to reach people in Tanzania with the gospel.

  Give each kid a bandage and encourage them to use it as a reminder to pray for the McDonalds at home.

- **OPTION 2: RESCUE!**

  Use cones to outline a 5-foot circle. Place an object in the middle of the circle, and choose two kids to be its guards. Explain that the guards may not step inside or travel away from the circle.

  Challenge kids to rescue the object without being tagged by the guards. Kids who are tagged are out. Play continues until a player rescues the object or the guards tag all the players.

  **SAY**  
  Today we learned that God rescued Moses to deliver His people from captivity. Moses’ rescue mission points to a greater rescue mission—Jesus’ coming to earth to save God’s people from sin. Moses and Jesus both obeyed God’s commands in order to carry out His plan of salvation. Moses delivered God’s people from physical captivity; Jesus delivered God’s people from captivity to sin. Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

2. **JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)**

  Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

  - What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
  - What does the story teach me about myself?
  - Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
  - Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
  - How does this story help me to live on mission better?

  Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God that we can trust Him to be faithful. Ask God to help us trust Him to keep His promises and give us courage to obey Him. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Miraculous Signs” on the activity page.
GOD DELIVERED HIS PEOPLE

EXODUS 5–12

KEY PASSAGE:
Numbers 23:19

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

CHRIST CONNECTION:
By His grace, God spared the Israelites from judgment by requiring the blood of a lamb. Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. His death was the ultimate sacrifice, and those who trust in Jesus are under His saving blood and will be passed over in the final judgment.
LEADER Bible Study

God’s heart is for His people. When the Israelites cried out to the Lord, He heard them and had a plan to rescue them from their suffering.

That’s why God called Moses back to Egypt. Though Moses had been raised among the royal household in Egypt, his heart was for his own people too. God chose Moses to deliver the enslaved Israelites after a series of plagues.

God’s purpose in sending the plagues was not only to get His people out of Egypt; the plagues would put God’s power on display and stand as acts of judgment against the Egyptians. (See Ex. 7:4-5.) The plagues made life in Egypt uncomfortable. In some instances, the people suffered terribly.

The plagues did convince some of Pharaoh’s officials to take God’s word seriously, but other Egyptians—including Pharaoh—refused to humble themselves. It was the tenth plague, the death of the firstborn, that finally got Pharaoh to send the Israelites out of his land.

The heart of the gospel is found in the story of the Passover. The Israelite people were sinful; they deserved death just as much as the Egyptians did, but God graciously provided a way out to keep the promises He made to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 and to Abraham in Genesis 12 and 15.

At the Passover, the Israelites killed a lamb instead. By marking their doorposts with the blood of a lamb, the Israelites were spared from the judgment and death they deserved.

God kept His promise to rescue His people from the power of the Egyptians. Each year, the Israelites remembered this miraculous event by observing the Passover festival.

Jesus never sinned, but He was crucified for our sins. We too are deserving of death, but the blood of Jesus—the Lamb of God—covers all who trust in Him and sets us free from sin and death.

God is faithful to keep His promises. He calls us to remember that Jesus has freed us from slavery to sin so we are free to live for His glory.

TERMS TO KNOW

Passover feast: Hebrew feast to remind the Israelites of how God delivered them from slavery in Egypt. Passover was celebrated by Jesus and His disciples and is still celebrated by Jewish people today.
### GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.

### WELCOME

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### LEARN

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| “Unchanging God (Numbers 23:19)” song |
| index cards |

| worship song of your choice (optional) |

### LOVE

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<td>Small Group Timeline and Map Set</td>
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| world map |

### LIVE

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>play money or plastic coins</td>
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| bowls or buckets, 1 per team |

| cups, 1 per kid |

| stopwatch or timer |

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<tr>
<th>Activity Choice (Option 2)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Big Picture Question Poster</td>
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| index cards |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal and Prayer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal Page</td>
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</table>

| “Ten Plagues Word Scramble” activity page |
WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** What is the most annoying insect you have ever encountered? What was it like?

**ACTIVITY PAGE** (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “When I Don’t Want To” on the activity page.

**SAY** Sometimes we have to do things we don’t want to do. God gave us rules to protect us and teach us more about Him. We can obey God, remembering that everything He does is for His glory and our joy.

**SESSION STARTER** (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1: HAILSTORM CHALLENGE**

Ask for two volunteers to compete in a minute challenge. Give each volunteer a handful of cotton balls. Position a wide-mouth jar at each volunteer’s feet.

Explain that when you say go, each volunteer will hold a cotton ball at chest level and try to drop it into the jar. Players will have one minute to drop as many of the cotton balls into the jar as they can.

After one minute, count the cotton balls in the jars. The player with the most wins. Choose new volunteers to compete in subsequent rounds.

**SAY** Have you ever seen hail? Hailstones can range in size from the size of a pea to the size of a grapefruit! Hail can do a lot of damage to crops and property. In today’s Bible story, we will hear about a time God sent a hailstorm on the Egyptians. Do you think it got their attention?

**OPTION 2: FIRST PLAGUE POUR**

Before the session, fill two buckets with water. Put several drops of red food color in the bottom of two more buckets. Lay a tarp or plastic tablecloth on the floor and position the water buckets at one end and the buckets with food color at the other.

Form two teams of kids. Direct each team to line up at a water bucket. Give a cup to the first player in each line.

Challenge kids to scoop a cup of water, carry it to the second bucket, dump it in, and carry the cup back to their team. After several minutes, call for teams to stop. The team that moved the most water wins.

**SAY** How did the water change when you put it in the second bucket? It turned red! In the Bible story we will hear today, God turned water from the Nile River into blood. Why would He do that? Let’s find out.
**INTRODUCE** the Bible Story

1. **INTRODUCE THE SESSION** *(2 minutes)*

   Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

   **SAY**
   "Hello! I’m [your name]. It is so good to see you today. Do you have your Bible with you? [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.]

   Why do you think we read and study the Bible? [Allow kids to respond.] The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us the wonderful story of God’s plan to rescue sinners. God has a message He wants us to know, and He wants us to know Him most of all. God is a faithful promise-keeper who made us and loves us."

2. **BIG PICTURE QUESTION** *(1 minute)*

   **SAY**
   "Last time, we heard our big picture question for the first time. Do you remember what it is? [Pause for kids to respond.] Does God keep His promises? The answer is **yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.** God never breaks His promises, so we can trust Him.

   I’ll ask the question again, and then you say the answer: **Does God keep His promises?** [Pause for kids to respond.] Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful. Keep that in mind when you hear today’s Bible story."

3. **REVIEW THE TIMELINE** *(2 minutes)*

   Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

   **SAY**
   "After sin entered the world through Adam and Eve’s disobedience, God promised to provide the solution for the problem of sin. He promised to bring the Rescuer through Abraham’s family.

   Last time, we saw how Abraham’s descendants—the Israelites—were slaves in Egypt. God called Moses to deliver His people out of Egypt and lead them to the promised land. Was Moses excited to return to Egypt and confront Pharaoh? Not really. But God promised He would go with Moses, and He told Moses what to say.

   How do you think it went? Of course, God kept His promise to be with Moses. Here’s our Bible story for today. It’s called ‘God Delivered His People.’ Let’s find out what happened."
LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)
Open your Bible to Exodus 5–12. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Delivered His People.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD DELIVERED HIS PEOPLE

God’s people, the Israelites, were slaves in Egypt, and God called Moses to rescue them. Moses and his brother Aaron went to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt and told him: “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Let My people go.”

But Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD? Why should I obey Him? Israel may not go!” So God sent ten plagues to punish the Egyptians.

First, God turned the water in the Nile River into blood. But Pharaoh would not let the people go.

God sent frogs into Egypt. Pharaoh said, “Ask your God to take away the frogs. Then I will let the people go.” But when God removed the frogs, Pharaoh refused to let the people go.

God sent gnats that bit the people and animals. Then God sent flies, and He caused all the livestock to die. Still, Pharaoh did not let the people go.

God sent boils that covered the people, but Pharaoh’s heart was hard. Not even a terrible hailstorm changed Pharaoh’s mind. Locusts ate up the plants, and then darkness covered the land for three days. But still, Pharaoh said no.

God told Moses, “I will bring one more plague. After that, Pharaoh will let My people go.”

Moses warned Pharaoh: Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, but the Israelites will be safe. Pharaoh ignored Moses.

So God told the Israelite families to kill a lamb and put its blood on the doorposts of their houses. This would be a special mark that God would see and “pass over.” The Israelites’ families would be safe.

At midnight, God struck every firstborn in the land of Egypt. There was a great cry because there wasn’t a house without someone dead. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron. “Go!” he said.

The Israelites were ready. All of them—600,000 men and their families—left Egypt quickly. They took bread and their animals. The Egyptians gave them gold, silver, and clothing.

God led His people out of Egypt. He was preparing a place for them in a land called Canaan (KAY nuhn). For 430 years, the Israelites had been slaves in Egypt. They were finally free!

STORYTELLING TIPS
Show pictures: Draw an icon for each plague (river, frog, gnat, fly, cow, sore, hail, locust, darkness, death). Point to the icons as you tell about the plagues.

Use hand motions: Encourage kids to give a thumbs up whenever someone in the story obeys God and a thumbs down whenever someone disobeys.
LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Christ Connection: By His grace, God spared the Israelites from judgment by requiring the blood of a lamb. Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. His death was the ultimate sacrifice, and those who trust in Jesus are under His saving blood and will be passed over in the final judgment.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY
Open your Bibles to Exodus 5:2. [Choose a volunteer to read the verse aloud.] Pharaoh didn’t listen when God said to let the Israelites go. In fact, Pharaoh made the Israelites’ work much harder. The Israelites started to question Moses and Aaron. Were they really trying to help? It seemed like they were making things worse.

To Moses, God’s plan didn’t seem to be working. Imagine getting up the courage to go talk to the ruler of Egypt only to be rejected. But God was in control. He had heard the Israelites’ cries. Look at Exodus 6:5-8. [Invite a volunteer to read the verses aloud.] God had a plan to prove His power to Pharaoh and to fulfill His promise to His people.

God sent 10 plagues to get Pharaoh’s attention and judge the Egyptians. Can you name all 10 in order? [Allow kids to respond. Guide them to look at Exodus 7–11 if they need help.] The Egyptians suffered terribly, but Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go.

The last plague was the most terrible one of all. In the night, the Lord struck every firstborn male in the land of Egypt. Every firstborn son died—from the firstborn of Pharaoh to the firstborn of prisoners and even the livestock. Yet God passed over the Israelites’ houses whose doorposts were marked with the blood of a lamb. That night, Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron to get out of Egypt. Pharaoh let the Israelites go, just like God promised.

Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY
By His grace, God spared the Israelites from judgment by requiring the blood of a lamb. Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. His death was the ultimate sacrifice, and those who trust in Jesus are under His saving blood and will be passed over in the final judgment.

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)
Show the “Unit 4, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:
1. Why did the king keep changing his mind and not let God’s people go?
2. What can you do if you notice your heart is hard toward God or His plan?
Display the photo of the McDonald family and ask the kids what they remember about the McDonalds, who are missionaries.

**SAY** In our story today, God judged Egypt and freed His people. Missionaries all over the world take the gospel to unbelievers who need freedom from sin, and they do so with help from generous offerings. The hospital where Eric McDonald works is supported by churches.

The McDonalds moved to Tanzania to work with missionaries Larry and Sally Pepper. Larry is a doctor, too. The hospital where he worked needed some changes. A church in Alabama helped them build a pediatric wing, which is a special part of the hospital that’s just for kids. By giving to missions offerings, we can help missionaries like the McDonalds and the Peppers get what they need to help people. And when they help people, they can also tell them about Jesus!

Show the kids where Tanzania is on a world map, and note how far it is from Alabama.

**SAY** God might call you to go to Africa like the McDonalds, or He might call you to support others who go. Everyone can support missions through prayer and giving.

Close in prayer for the McDonalds, Peppers, and any missionaries your church supports.

**KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY** (5 minutes)

Before the session, write each word of the key passage on a separate index card. Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Numbers 23:19 together.

**SAY** Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful. God fulfilled multiple promises in today’s story. God keeps His promises to us, too, as our key passage tells us.

Give each kid an index card with a word from the verse to say. If you have more cards than kids, give kids multiple cards. Guide the kids to recite the verse popcorn-style. Begin with the kid holding the first word. Repeat if time allows.

Lead kids to sing “Unchanging God (Numbers 23:19).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

**PRAY** (2 minutes)

 Invite kids to pray before transitioning from LEARN to LOVE.

**SAY** God, You are faithful at all times. Thank You for keeping Your promises and planning the best for us. Sometimes we feel afraid and make excuses. Help us to trust You, listen for Your voice, and obey You. Amen.
LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 12. Explain that the Israelites lived around the area of Goshen in Egypt (H7). Goshen was on the eastern edge of Egypt. Canaan (G9), the land that God promised to Abraham, was to the northeast of Egypt.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Egypt.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 12:17.

SAY At the first Passover, God protected His people from the final plague. Thousands of years later, Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples. That night, He was betrayed and captured by the religious leaders in Jerusalem. After an unfair trial, Jesus died on the cross and rose three days later. Like the lamb’s blood saved the Israelites from the Egyptian plague, Jesus’ blood saves us from our sin. Jesus’ sacrifice reminds us that God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY What did Pharaoh believe about God? How do our beliefs affect how we live?

Guide kids to recall that Pharaoh did not recognize God as the Lord; he did not submit to God’s authority. Discuss how our beliefs directly affect how we live. If we trust God as Lord, we will trust and follow Him even through difficult times.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 16:33.)

SAY What are consequences we might face when we don’t listen closely or we choose to disobey?

Lead kids to think of relational consequences with friends and family. Guide kids to consider the cost of sin in their relationships with God. Remind kids that Jesus’ sacrifice pays the cost of our sin so we can have a right relationship with God when we trust in Him.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 1:29.)

SAY How can we help other people recognize God if they don’t believe He is real?

Encourage kids to think of ways we can show God’s love to others. Remind kids that Pharaoh did not think he needed God, and God allowed Moses to perform miracles so that Pharaoh would recognize God’s power. Guide kids to notice that we can’t change people’s minds on our own and we need God’s help.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ezek. 11:19-20.)
LIVE the Mission

ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: RACE TO GIVE
Form two or more teams of kids. Give each team a bucket of play money or plastic coins. Give each kid a cup and challenge kids to use their cups to take the money from their team’s bucket to another team’s bucket. Set a timer for three minutes. At the end of that time, the team with the least amount of play money in their bucket wins. Open your Bible and read aloud Acts 20:35.

SAY “Through the sacrifice of lambs, God gave His people two incredible gifts: protection from the tenth plague and freedom from Egypt. God’s generosity can inspire us to live generously too. Giving to missions is a great way to support missionaries. The church in Alabama raised enough money to build a new wing on the hospital in Africa by giving generously.”

Encourage kids to place their cups in their rooms to collect money for missions. Pray and ask God to help the kids be cheerful givers.

☐ OPTION 2: PLAGUES FISHBOWL
Write the plagues on separate index cards: water turned to blood, frogs, gnats, flies, death of livestock, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, death of the firstborn. Read the cards aloud and put them in a bowl. Play three rounds of a game. For each round, choose a new player to grab cards one at a time. See how many plagues kids can guess in one minute.

Round 1: A player will say words not on the card to help the kids guess the plague.
Round 2: A player will say only one word to help the kids guess the plague.
Round 3: A player will silently act out clues to help kids guess the plague.

SAY “God spared the Israelites from judgment by requiring the blood of a lamb. Jesus is the Lamb of God. Those who trust in Jesus will be passed over in the final judgment. Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.”

JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)
Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

• What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
• What does the story teach me about myself?
• Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
• Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
• How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for sending Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice for our sin. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Ten Plagues Word Scramble” on the activity page.
UNIT 4 | SESSION 3

GOD PARTED THE RED SEA
EXODUS 13–15

KEY PASSAGE:
Numbers 23:19

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

CHRIST CONNECTION:
Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, and God provided a way for them to escape through the Red Sea. The Bible says that Jesus is greater than Moses. (Hebrews 3:3) People who trust in Jesus escape the penalty of sin and have eternal life.
LEADER Bible Study

God’s people were finally free. After 430 years of slavery in Egypt, the Israelites—now numbering 600,000 men plus their families—were on their way out with Moses as their leader. God had promised to give them a new land: “a land flowing with milk and honey” (Ex. 3:17).

What did sudden freedom feel like? Did the Israelites feel strong and courageous? Did they feel nervous and vulnerable? Regardless of their thoughts and emotions, one thing was certain: God was with them.

We see in the story of Exodus 13–15 that God directed His people, fought for His people, and ultimately delivered His people.

First, God directed His people. We see this clearly in God’s choice of the route for the Israelites. God knew if the Israelites took the road into the land of the Philistines, they would face war and decide to go back to Egypt. So God led them toward the Red Sea. He knew Pharaoh would pursue them.

Would Pharaoh stop God’s plans? No. On the contrary, the threat of Pharaoh and his army would bring God glory and cause the Egyptians to know that the God of the Israelites is the Lord.

The Egyptians pursued the Israelites, and God fought for His people. Imagine the Israelites’ fear in seeing their oppressors approaching. They were terrified! First, they cried out to God for help. Then they turned to Moses with accusations. Had Moses brought them there to die? Moses was confident: “Don’t be afraid. ... The LORD will fight for you” (Ex. 14:13-14).

And He did. God parted the waves of the Red Sea for the Israelites to walk through. When the Egyptians followed, God threw them into confusion and let the waters crash back over them.

God delivered His people. The Israelites saw God’s power and did what Pharaoh and the Egyptians refused to do: They feared the Lord. Exodus 15 records their song to God, reflecting on His power and faithful love for His people.

In an even greater display of His power and faithful love, God provided His Son, Jesus. Jesus is greater than Moses.

Through faith in Jesus, God delivers us from sin and death.
GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.

**Activity Page**
- “Feeling and Trusting” activity page

**Session Starter (Option 1)**
- milk
- shallow dish or plate
- dish soap
- cotton swab
- red food color

**Session Starter (Option 2)**
- masking tape or painter's tape
- plastic cup
- golf ball
- golf putter or yardstick
- boxes, cones, or other obstacles

**Introduce the Session**
- countdown video

**Big Picture Question**
- Big Picture Question Poster

**Review the Timeline**
- Giant Timeline

**Tell the Bible Story**
- “God Parted the Red Sea” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

**Questions from Kids**
- “Unit 4, Session 3” questions from kids video

**Missions Moment**
- “The McDonalds Update” missions video
- world map

**Key Passage Activity**
- Key Passage Poster
- “Unchanging God (Numbers 23:19)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)

**Activity Choice (Option 1)**
- Printable: “McDonald Children Q&A”

**Activity Choice (Option 2)**
- blue balloons, 25
- masking tape
- Big Picture Question Poster

**Journal and Prayer**
- Journal Page
- “Clue Connections” activity page
WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** What’s the biggest body of water you have visited—maybe it was an ocean, a river, a lake, or a gigantic swimming pool? What was it like?

### 1. ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Feeling and Trusting” on the activity page.

**SAY** Sometimes we find ourselves in scary or uncomfortable situations. Even then, we can trust God to take care of us. In today’s Bible story, we will see how God took care of the Israelites when they were very afraid.

### 2. SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: RED SEA SCIENCE

Pour milk into a shallow dish or plate, covering the bottom. Allow a volunteer to squirt several drops of red food color into the milk near the center of the dish. (Tip: If your group is large, simultaneously conduct multiple experiments with smaller groups.)

Ask another volunteer to dip the end of a cotton swab into dish soap. Then instruct her to press the end of the soapy swab into the center of the plate. Point out how the color rushes to the edges of the dish.

**SAY** That was really cool! Today we are going to hear a story from the Bible about a time God’s people, the Israelites, stood at the edge of the Red Sea. They needed to get across. Miraculously, God parted the water. Let’s find out what happened.

#### OPTION 2: CROSS THE SEA GAME

Clear an area on the floor to set up a miniature golf game. Use painter’s tape to mark the boundaries of the green and position a plastic cup on its side as the hole.

Position obstacles on the green, blocking the direct path to the “hole.” Provide a golf ball and small putter or yardstick.

Challenge a volunteer to putt the ball into the cup. Count how many putts a player requires to get the ball into the cup. Allow other kids a turn.

**SAY** We can’t always see a path around the obstacles in front of us. In today’s Bible story, we will see what God did for the Israelites when they were trapped between the Red Sea and the approaching Egyptians.
INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)
Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY "Welcome, everyone! I am so glad you are here. I'm [your name]. Hold up your Bible if you have it today. [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] The Bible is God's Word. It tells us the wonderful story of ... what? [Let kids respond.] It tells us the wonderful story of God's plan to rescue sinners.

We study the Bible because it is one way we can know God. He is a faithful promise-keeper. The more you know Him, the more you will love Him. He gives us His Word so we can know what is true. I am so excited for you to hear today's Bible story.

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY "We've been talking a lot about God's promises lately. Our big picture question is, Does God keep His promises? [Allow kids to respond.] Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful. We are learning that God's faithfulness is part of His character. Even many years after God made a promise, He kept it.

Let's say our big picture question and answer together. Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (2 minutes)
Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY "Remember that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell the one big story of God's plan to rescue sinners. In the Old Testament, we see God's working out His plan through His chosen people, the Israelites. But for hundreds of years, the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. Egypt was not the land God had promised His people; He promised to give them the land of Canaan.

Last time, we saw how God sent plagues as judgment on Egypt, and Pharaoh finally allowed the Israelites to leave. When the Israelites encountered an obstacle on the way to Canaan, God showed His faithfulness again. Today's story is called 'God Parted the Red Sea.' Let's see what happened."
LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Exodus 13–15. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Parted the Red Sea.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD PARTED THE RED SEA

Moses quickly led God’s people—the Israelites—out of Egypt. God guided Moses and the Israelites toward the Red Sea and the wilderness. As they traveled, God went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud during the day. At night, God was in a pillar of fire.

God told Moses to set up camp near the sea. God knew Pharaoh was going to change his mind and chase after the Israelites, and God had a plan to prove to the Israelites that He is the one true God.

Sure enough, Pharaoh got into his chariot, and he and his army pursued the Israelites. They caught up with God’s people, who were camping near the sea.

The Israelites saw the Egyptians coming, and they were afraid. “We are going to die!” they shouted. “We should never have left Egypt!”

But Moses said, “Don’t be afraid. God brought you here, and He will fight for you.”

As the Egyptians got closer, God told Moses what to do: “Stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide it so the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.” God moved behind the Israelites to hold back the Egyptians for the night. In the morning, Moses stretched out his hand and divided the sea. The Israelites walked through with walls of water on both sides.

But the Egyptians chased after them. As soon as the Israelites were safely on the other side of the sea, Moses stretched out his hand again. The waters crashed down, covering the Egyptians and killing all of Pharaoh’s army.

When the Israelites saw what had happened, they feared God and believed that He had sent Moses to lead them. Moses and the Israelites sang a song to the Lord. “The L ORD is my strength and my song,” they said. “He has become my salvation.”

Christ Connection: Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, and God provided a way for them to escape through the Red Sea. The Bible says that Jesus is greater than Moses. (Hebrews 3:3) People who trust in Jesus escape the penalty of sin and have eternal life.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Match the emotion:
When the Israelites might have felt scared, in awe, or happy in the story, guide the kids to make a face that matches that emotion.

Use hand motions:
Whenever kids hear the word “God,” instruct them to make the sign language motion for God. Hold your hand perpendicular to your body and draw a line from over your head down your center.
LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** Open your Bibles to Exodus 13:17. [Choose a volunteer to read the verse aloud.] God knew the Israelites would give up if they went the short way back to Canaan and faced new enemies there. Even though going by the Red Sea wasn’t as direct, God sent the Israelites that way for their good.

God also knew that Pharaoh would change his mind. Look at Exodus 14:1-4. [Choose a volunteer to read the verses aloud.] Despite all of the plagues God sent and the miracles He displayed through Moses and Aaron, Pharaoh still refused to submit to the Lord as the one true God. So God performed another miracle. With the Israelites caught between water and the Egyptians, they had nowhere to escape until God provided a way. The Egyptians thought they could recapture the Israelites. Even when the sea parted, their pride and arrogance led them to chase the Israelites, and they faced the consequences for their sin. They were destroyed by the sea.

Before the Israelites knew how God would provide, they were afraid. God comforted them through Moses. Find Exodus 14:13-14. [Choose a volunteer to read the verses aloud.] The Israelites didn’t have to be afraid because God fought for them. He is the all-powerful promise-keeper.

CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, and God provided a way for them to escape through the Red Sea. The Bible says that Jesus is greater than Moses. (Hebrews 3:3) People who trust in Jesus escape the penalty of sin and have eternal life.

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 4, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Can I ask God for help when I’m in trouble? Will He help me get out of it?
2. How can we help one another trust God, who delivers us from sin and death?

MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

**SAY** Today we learned that God led His people right through the Red Sea, out of Egypt and toward a land of their own. Have any of you ever been to another country? The McDonald family is currently living in Kenya before they move to Tanzania. They had never lived outside of the United States before. What do you think it would be like to pack up or sell everything you own and move to a foreign country? Name one thing that you would definitely bring with you.

Ask a volunteer to point to Kenya and Tanzania on a world map. Then play the missions video. Close in prayer, for the McDonalds’ children. Pray that they will adjust to and love their new life in Tanzania. Pray also for missionaries your church supports.
KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)
Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Numbers 23:19 together.

SAY The Israelites were afraid that God might not keep His promise to save them when the Egyptians appeared. In fact, they worried God had brought them there to die. God did save them, though, just like our key passage reminds us.

Guide kids to form a circle. Encourage each kid to come up with a hand motion for the next word of the verse. As you add more hand motions, repeat what you have already done and add on the new word. Continue until all the words have motions. Finish by saying the whole verse from start to finish.

Lead kids to sing “Unchanging God (Numbers 23:19).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

PRAY (2 minutes)
Invite kids to pray before transitioning from LEARN to LOVE.

SAY God, You are trustworthy, powerful, and faithful. Thank You for fighting for us and providing for us. Help us trust You and to tell others about You. Amen.
LOVE God by Applying the Story

1. REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 15. Explain that the shortest way from Egypt (H7) to Canaan (G9) followed the Mediterranean Sea. God planned to show His power by leading them to the Red Sea (I9).

Consider comparing the Old Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Egypt and northwest Saudi Arabia.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 15:1-3.

SAY The Israelites couldn’t have escaped the Egyptians without God’s help. They had nowhere else to go. When God divided the sea for the Israelites to cross, He showed His power over nature. Pharaoh’s best warriors were helpless when God held them back. The Israelites recognized God’s power and worshiped Him.

GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY How did the Israelites respond to God’s rescuing them through the Red Sea?

Lead kids to discuss how the Israelites worshiped God. They sang, danced, and played instruments. They told about God’s power and all He had done. Consider pointing kids to Exodus 15 and reading the praises of the Israelites.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ex. 15:21.)

SAY What reasons do we have to worship God?

Encourage kids to share other things they know God has done, either through reading Scripture or in their own lives. Recognize God’s power and authority. Point out that kids can worship God by singing songs, dancing in thankfulness, or writing poems and stories that tell of His wonderful works. God is honored when we worship Him and teach others to worship Him too.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 57:7.)

SAY How does the story of the Red Sea crossing remind us of Jesus?

Tell kids that when we tell people about Jesus, we can invite them to trust in Jesus. Trusting in Jesus is like crossing the Red Sea from death in sin to life and salvation in the promised land of God’s kingdom.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Cor. 1:3-4.)
LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1: KIDS Q&A**

Before the session, write A on one piece of paper and B on another. Tape the papers to opposite walls in your room.

**SAY** As God’s people traveled into the wilderness through the Red Sea, they didn’t know what to expect in their new lives. Do you think you would know what to expect if you moved to Tanzania with the McDonald family? We’re going to learn from the McDonald children what it’s like to live in Tanzania.

Read each question from the printable and encourage kids to move to the side of the room that represents the answer they think the McDonald kids gave. Then reveal the actual answer.

**SAY** Did any of these answers surprise you? Does it sound like their life in Africa is what you imagined it would be like?

Remind the kids to pray for the McDonalds this week, as well as any missionaries your church supports.

**OPTION 2: RED SEA RACE**

Before class, inflate 25 blue balloons. Form two groups. Place the balloons in the middle of the room. Direct each group to stand at opposite sides of the room. Give each group a roll of masking tape. Explain that kids will race one at a time to pick up a balloon and return to their group’s side of the room.

Kids should use the tape to secure the balloons to the wall. When the balloon is attached, another player may retrieve a balloon. Continue play until kids secure all the balloons to the walls.

**SAY** In today’s Bible story, God proved to the Egyptians that He is the one true God. God created a way to save the Israelites by parting the Red Sea. In a similar way, God created the way for people to escape the penalty of sin through His Son, Jesus. We didn’t deserve salvation, but God love us and promised to send a Savior.

Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for His power and protection. Ask God to help kids trust His provision even when they are scared. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Clue Connections” on the activity page.
UNIT 4 | SESSION 4

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES
ISAIAH 9

KEY PASSAGE:
Numbers 23:19

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

CHRIST CONNECTION:
God keeps His promises. He remembered His promise to send a Rescuer and sent His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby. Jesus grew up and provided salvation for sinners by dying on the cross and rising from the dead.
LEADER Bible Study

God’s faithfulness is present throughout the Bible, but the theme is prominent in the Book of Exodus. God is consistent and unchanging. Even when the Israelites are faithless, God is faithful. The Israelites regularly celebrated God’s miraculous acts like the Passover and the parting of the Red Sea to remember that God keeps His promises.

As you read and teach from the Old Testament, keep in mind this point on the horizon: God’s keeping His ultimate promise to send a Rescuer to deliver His people from sin. God spoke to His people through the prophets to remind them of His good plan.

When would the promised One come? How would He come? Would God’s people recognize Him? The prophet Isaiah—who lived hundreds of years before Jesus was born—brought a message of hope to God’s people.

Isaiah spoke specifically of the Messiah’s birth: “The virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel” (Isa. 7:14). He described the birth of a “Prince of Peace”—a Son of David who will reign forever. (Isa. 9:6-7) Isaiah said that He would be a King! (Isa. 11:1-5)

Jesus fulfilled God’s promises spoken by the prophet Isaiah. He is the child who came into the world. He is the Wonderful Counselor who leads us with wisdom. He is the Mighty God who fights for and protects us. He is the Eternal Father who loves us. He is the Prince of Peace who brings us into a right relationship with God.

Isaiah’s prophecies from God did not speak just to the people of his time; they also speak to us. Hundreds of years before it happened, Isaiah told of how Jesus would be born and how He would suffer and die to take away the sins of His people.

We respond to God’s faithfulness with trust, remembering His past miraculous acts and looking forward to the day when King Jesus will come back and rule forever. Jesus is the promised Messiah. He makes all of God’s promises come true.
GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.

WELCOME

Activity Page
- “Patiently Waiting” activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)
- index cards

Session Starter (Option 2)
- stopwatch or timer

LEARN

Introduce the Session
- countdown video

Big Picture Question
- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline
- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story
- “God Keeps His Promises” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids
- “Unit 4, Session 4” questions from kids video

Missions Moment
- Printable: “Missionary Families”

Key Passage Activity
- Key Passage Poster
- “Unchanging God (Numbers 23:19)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)

LOVE

Review & Bible Skills
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- world map

LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 2)
- 24-gauge wire
- ribbon
- beads (optional)
- wire cutters (optional)
- Big Picture Question Poster

Journal and Prayer
- Journal Page
- “God Fulfills His Promises” activity page

PREPARE PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION
Welcome Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** Do you know if there is a story behind your name? Was it a family member’s name or a name from a book?

1. **Activity Page** (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Patiently Waiting” on the activity page.

**SAY** We have to wait for things every day. Sometimes we have to wait weeks or even years for the things we expect. Today, we’ll hear about a prophet who looked forward to Jesus’ arrival about 700 years before Jesus was born.

2. **Session Starter** (10 minutes)

**Option 1: The Name Game**

Use a purple marker to write the following nicknames on separate index cards: Annie Oakley, The People’s Champion, Ol’ Blue Eyes, Ice Commander, Honest Abe, The Father of His Country, Lady Lindy, Duke, The King of Rock ‘n’ Roll, the Godfather of Soul.

Then use a green marker to write these names on separate cards: Phoebe Ann Mosey, Muhammad Ali, Frank Sinatra, Neil Armstrong, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Amelia Earhart, Edward Kennedy Ellington, Elvis Presley, James Brown. Make two sets of each group of cards. You may also include names and nicknames of your choice.

Form two teams. Give each team a set of cards. Challenge each team to match each green name card to a purple nickname card. The team to correctly pair the most cards wins.

**SAY** Names can often tell us a lot about a person. In today’s Bible story, we’ll learn some other names for Jesus and what they teach us about Him.

**Option 2: Share the Story**

Form groups of four to eight kids, and instruct each group to sit in a circle. Distribute paper and pencils to the kids.

Explain that kids will have 30 seconds to write the first sentence that they think of to start a story. After 30 seconds, they will pass their papers to the kids on their right. They will have 30 seconds to add on to the story that is now in front of them. Continue around the circle until everyone in the group has added a sentence to each story. Then encourage kids to take turns reading the stories aloud to their groups.

**SAY** That was fun to make up stories together. In the Bible, God gave messages to men and women called prophets or prophetesses who shared that message with the rest of God’s people. These messages weren’t made up; they were true! Today, we’ll hear a message the prophet Isaiah shared.
INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1. INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)
Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY Hi, everyone! My name is [your name]. I'm so glad you're here with us today! Who brought your Bible today? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

The Bible is God's Word. It is one big book, but it is made up of many smaller books. Do you know how many books are in the Bible? (66) We've been reading from the Book of Exodus. Exodus means "departure," so the Book of Exodus tells us how God made the way out of slavery for the Israelites, so they departed Egypt and went toward the promised land.

2. BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY Our big picture question is, Does God keep His promises? Do you remember the answer? [Let volunteers respond.] Let's all say our big picture question and answer together: Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

Can you think of some times God made a promise and then kept it? Think about the stories we’ve heard in the past few weeks. The stories we’ve learned about Moses remind us that God kept His promises to Moses, to the Israelites, and to Abraham from many generations before. Today we are going to hear about one of the greatest promises God kept.

3. REVIEW THE TIMELINE (2 minutes)
Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY We have talked quite a bit about God’s promises so far, haven’t we? That’s an important big truth of the Bible—not only here, but throughout the rest of Scripture. Today, we will spend more time making sure we understand why it’s so important that God keeps His promises. To help us do that, we are going to look at the way God kept His great promise to send a Savior.

This story happened long after Moses and the Israelites left Egypt and crossed the Red Sea. To help His people remember His promises, God sent prophets to speak to them. The prophet Isaiah told people about the Messiah—the Anointed One who would rescue people from sin. This story comes from the Book of Isaiah.
LEARN the Bible Story

**TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER** (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Isaiah 9. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Keeps His Promises.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

**GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES**

When sin entered the world after Adam and Eve rebelled, God made an important promise. God promised a Rescuer would come from Eve’s family. As years passed, God’s people waited for Him to keep His promise. God sometimes spoke to His people through prophets and prophetesses, men and women who received a message from God and then told it to the people.

The prophet Isaiah shared a message about God’s promise to send a Rescuer. The Rescuer would be called the Messiah, which means “anointed one” or “chosen one.” This is what Isaiah wrote:

“**The people are living in darkness now, but they will see a great light.** A light will shine on them. God will grow the nation and give the people joy. People will rejoice like they do at harvest time or after a war is won.

“This is how God will keep His promise: A child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

All these names tell us who Jesus is and the great things He would do. Jesus was coming to earth to help people and protect people. Jesus would be a king who cares about His people, and He would bring peace to the whole world.

Isaiah also said, “His kingdom will be full of His power and peace. The kingdom will grow, and He will reign on the throne as the King. **He will be a good, fair, and loving King who reigns forever.**”

Christ Connection: God keeps His promises. He remembered His promise to send a Rescuer and sent His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby. Jesus grew up and provided salvation for sinners by dying on the cross and rising from the dead.

**STORYTELLING TIPS**

**Use hand motions:** Guide kids to hold up their hands in a prayer position when they hear one of God’s promises.

**Move around:** Start in one place in the room to tell of God’s promise to Eve. Move to another place in the room to describe God’s promises to the prophets. Move again to explain Isaiah’s prophecy of the Messiah and another time to explain the prophecy’s fulfillment in Jesus.
LEARN
THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY "God made many promises in the Bible. We can read about His promise to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 to send a Rescuer. He promised to bless Abraham and give him a family, make his family into a great nation, and provide a land for them. God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and promised to be with Him. Throughout the Old Testament, we see examples of God’s faithfulness. Through the prophets, God made promises about the promised Rescuer—the Messiah who would save people from sin.

Open your Bible to Isaiah 9:6. [Encourage a volunteer to read the verse.] Isaiah was sharing God’s promise for the future. Now, we know that God fulfilled this great promise by sending His Son, Jesus. The Son of God came into the world as a human baby. He grew up and faced temptation and suffering just like we do, yet He never sinned. He died on the cross and rose from the dead on the third day to save everyone who trusts in Him. He returned to heaven and is reigning over the universe as the perfect, eternal King.

We celebrate Jesus’ birth because through Jesus, God shows us that He always keeps His promises, big or small. Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful."

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY "God keeps His promises. He remembered His promise to send a Rescuer and sent His Son, Jesus, into the world as a baby. Jesus grew up and provided salvation for sinners by dying on the cross and rising from the dead."

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 4, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:
1. How should you react if someone breaks a promise to you?
2. How do you feel knowing that God is always faithful?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the missionary collage and explain that all of the families featured are missionary families.

SAY "God is faithful to keep all His promises. He sent Jesus and Jesus called all of us to share the gospel with the world. God is faithful to help us obey that command. All of the families you see here are missionary families.

If you’re a kid whose parents are called to be missionaries, you get to be a part of what they do."
The McDonalds’ kids, for instance, are looking forward to going on trips with their parents to some of the villages in Tanzania. They can work alongside their parents, helping people and telling them about Jesus. Sometimes we call missionaries’ kids ‘MKs.’ Let’s look at some artwork made by an 8-year-old Mk named Benny.

Show Benny’s artwork and ask the kids if they can tell what Benny drew.

**SAY** Benny and his parents minister to Muslims. Muslims need Jesus, and Benny illustrated a Christian telling a Muslim about Jesus. Benny knows exactly what his family’s mission is. They are working together to spread the gospel.

Ask a volunteer to pray for the McDonalds, Benny and his family, and missionary families your church supports.

**6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)**

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Numbers 23:19 together.

**SAY** Through Moses’ life and Isaiah’s prophecy, we see that God keeps all of His promises. Our key passage helps us remember God’s faithfulness.

Distribute index cards and crayons or markers to all the kids. Guide them to write the key passage from memory. Encourage kids to decorate their cards and think of who to give them to this week.

Lead kids to sing “Unchanging God (Numbers 23:19).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

**7 PRAY (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before transitioning from LEARN to LOVE.

**SAY** God, You keep Your promises no matter how big or small. Thank You for faithfully loving us. Help us tell others how You keep Your promises so more people can come to know You. Amen.
**LOVE** God by Applying the Story

1. **REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS** *(5 minutes)*

   Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Isaiah 9. Explain that Isaiah lived in Jerusalem (H5) when Israel split into two kingdoms—the Northern Kingdom of Israel (F4) and the Southern Kingdom of Judah (J3). Isaiah was primarily a prophet to the people of Judah.

   Consider comparing the Old Testament Kingdoms Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Israel.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Isaiah 9:2.

   **SAY** "When the prophet Isaiah told of the Messiah who would come and rescue God’s people, he said ‘The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.’ The Old Testament tells about the Israelites’ being invaded by their enemies. It was a dark time for them, but they had hope. Light in the darkness reminds us of hope. By sending Jesus, God kept His promise to send a Savior. Jesus brings hope into a world invaded by sin. God always keeps His promises because He is faithful."

2. **GROUP DISCUSSION** *(10 minutes)*

   Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

   **SAY** "What do Jesus’ names tell us about Him?"

   Help kids recall the names in Isaiah 9: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. These names tell us who Jesus is and the great things He would do. Jesus would be a king who cares about His people. He would bring peace to the whole world.

   (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 16:33.)

   **SAY** "Why should we tell others how God kept His promise by sending Jesus?"

   Remind kids that sin separates us from God. Guide kids to consider how the gospel frees us from the guilt of sin. Encourage kids to think of how the gospel affects those around us, as well.

   (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 6:23.)

   **SAY** "When can we tell others about God’s faithfulness?"

   Encourage kids to think of times throughout the day that they experience God’s faithfulness. Invite kids to think of major promises like those in the Bible that they can share with others. Remind kids that telling others about God’s faithfulness pleases God and brings honor to Him.

   (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 63:4-5.)
LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: SKILLS TO SHARE

SAY You and your family can be on mission wherever God calls you. People around the world and right here in our community need Jesus. The McDonalds use their training as medical workers to help people and find opportunities to tell them about Jesus. Can you think of some ways your family could help people and tell them about Jesus?

Provide paper, pencils, and crayons and ask kids to think of at least one way that they could work with their families to help people and tell them who Jesus is. Lead them to make a drawing that shows their idea.

Allow the kids to share their drawings with the group. Brainstorm ways kids can show love through serving others, and encourage the kids to help others this week.

SAY When we help and love other people, we have a great opportunity to tell them how loving Jesus is.

☐ OPTION 2: JESUS WIRE ART

Give each kid a length of 24-gauge wire. Lead kids to follow the instructions to create a wire art hanging.

Instruct kids to bend the wire into the shape of the letters in the name JESUS. Kids may choose to shape another name for Jesus as found in Isaiah 9 (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace).

Kids may choose to add a few beads to the letter. To eliminate sharp edges, wrap the wire around a pencil to form loops. Tie a piece of thin ribbon through the top loop of each letter to create a way to hang each letter.

SAY The name Jesus means 'The LORD saves.' Jesus came to earth to save people from their sins. Does God keep His promises? Yes, God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

• What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
• What does the story teach me about myself?
• Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
• Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
• How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for always keeping His promises. Ask God to remind kids of all He has done and help them trust His perfect timing. As time allows, lead kids to complete “God Fulfills His Promises” on the activity page.
GOD PROVIDED MANNA
EXODUS 16–17

KEY PASSAGE:
Psalm 95:6-7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:
God provided water and manna for His people’s physical hunger. Later, He provided His Son, Jesus, for our spiritual hunger. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35). The Israelites needed bread to live for a little while, but whoever has Jesus will live forever.
LEADER Bible Study

The Israelites had personally experienced God's faithfulness as He directed them out of Egypt, fought for them as He parted the Red Sea, and then delivered them into the wilderness with the promise of a land of their own. What happened next is retold as a cautionary tale in both the Psalms and Book of Hebrews.

The Israelites tasted freedom for the first time in 400 years, but their stomachs still rumbled. Maybe the Israelites had expected to go straight to Canaan. Instead, they were in a dry wilderness without water or food. They began to think of Egypt in a warmer light. Maybe slavery hadn't been that bad.

Isn't that the lie that causes us to doubt God's goodness? God saves us from slavery to sin; is following Jesus worth it? We know the answer is a resounding, “Yes!” But when life is hard and sanctification is trying, we—like the Israelites—sometimes stop trusting God. We grumble and complain.

God, the faithful keeper of promises, did not bring His people out of Egypt to let them die in the wilderness, nor does He abandon His children today. God sent His own Son, who gave up His life to free us from sin. He promises us a new home with Him forever.

If you had been among the Israelites, how do you think of a time your own circumstances had you questioning God's goodness? Let the truth of Psalm 95:7 comfort you: “For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep under his care.”

Israel's history is given to us in the Bible because it reflects the Christian experience. We are to learn from it. (See 1 Cor. 10:1-11.) God cares for His people. He is faithful and keeps His promises. Our journey toward our new home of eternity will be challenging and trying, but we can rely on God—trusting His leading and provision.

The Lord is worthy of our trust and worship. The Israelites needed this reminder, and so do we. Trust Him and obey Him because His way is better than any plan you can conceive. He is a providing shepherd who will lead us.

TERMS TO KNOW

Massah and Meribah: names meaning “testing” and “quarreling” that Moses named the place where God provided in Exodus 17. The new names expressed behavior to avoid.
GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.

Activity Page
- “What's for Dinner?” activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)
- gift bag
- random household objects

Session Starter (Option 2)
- various small containers, 3 per group
- pitchers of water, 1 per group
- measuring cups, 2 per group
- towels (for cleanup)

Introduce the Session
- countdown video

Big Picture Question
- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline
- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story
- “God Provided Manna” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids
- “Unit 5, Session 1” questions from kids video

Missions Moment
- “All About New Orleans” missions video
- United States map

Key Passage Activity
- Key Passage Poster
- “Come, Let’s Worship (Psalm 95:6-7)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)

Activity Choice (Option 1)
- Printable: “Fun Facts About New Orleans”

Activity Choice (Option 2)
- Printable: “Flying Quail Craft”
- drinking straws, 1 per kid
- masking tape
- construction paper or index cards
- Big Picture Question Poster

Journal and Prayer
- Journal Page
- “Gifts from Above” activity page
WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** Can you think of a time you really needed something but didn’t have what you needed—like a pencil to complete a school assignment? What did you do?

1 **ACTIVITY PAGE** (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What’s for Dinner?” on the activity page.

**SAY** Every creature requires certain things to live. In today’s Bible story, we will see how God provided everything the Israelites needed as they wandered in the wilderness. God also provides for our need to be saved from sin by sending Jesus.

2 **SESSION STARTER** (10 minutes)

- **OPTION 1: WHAT IS IT?**

  Choose a volunteer to sit in a chair at the front of the room. Instruct him to close his eyes. Stand behind the volunteer and show the rest of the kids a random household object.

  Put the object into a gift bag and guide the volunteer to reach inside and feel the object. Ask, “What is it?” and invite the volunteer to guess what object is in the bag. Then let him look at the object to see if he is correct. Play additional rounds with new volunteers. Each time, ask “What is it?”

  **SAY** To identify something new, you might feel it or smell it. You could listen to it or look at it. In today’s Bible story, the Israelites encountered something they had never seen before. They asked, ‘What is it?’ and then they tasted it! We’ll find out what it was.

- **OPTION 2: JUST ENOUGH**

  Before meeting together, place three different sized containers, two measuring cups, and one pitcher of water on each table.

  Form kids into groups of four or five kids and direct them to sit around a table. Challenge them to look at each container and estimate the amount of water it will take to fill each one without it overflowing.

  Direct kids to use their measuring cups to check if their estimates were correct.

  **SAY** Was it difficult to guess the amount of water needed to perfectly fill each container? In today’s Bible story, we will see how God perfectly provided for His people’s physical and spiritual needs.
INTRODUCE the Bible Story

INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)
Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY "Welcome, everyone! I'm [your name], and I am so glad you are here! If you brought your Bible today, hold it up. [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] Can anyone tell me what the Bible is about? [Allow kids to respond.] The Bible is God's Word. It tells us the wonderful story of God’s plan to rescue sinners.

Each time we meet together, we study God’s Word. [Hold up your Bible.] The stories recorded in the Bible really happened. Every story we study during this time is true, and the people we hear about were real people. I’m looking forward to sharing a story with you as we learn about how God cared for His people long ago and how He still cares for His people today."

BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY "Over the next few weeks, we will think about a big picture question. This question helps us focus on important truths as we study God’s Word.

Our big picture question is, **What is worship?** Have you ever heard the word *worship* at church? Sometimes churches even call the time they meet together “worship services.” What do you think worship means? [Allow kids to share.] *Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.* That’s the answer to our big picture question. Let’s say our big picture question and answer together: **What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.** As we get to know God, we’ll discover that we have a lot to celebrate!"

REVIEW THE TIMELINE (2 minutes)
Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY "Let’s think about how we got to today’s story. In the beginning, God created the world. After sin entered the world through Adam and Eve’s disobedience, God promised to provide the solution for the problem of sin. He promised to bring the Rescuer through Abraham’s family.

The descendants of Abraham’s grandson Jacob—who were called Israelites—were slaves in Egypt. Moses delivered them out of Egypt and led them toward the promised land. But all their problems didn’t go away immediately. To get to the promised land, the Israelites had to travel through the wilderness. It wasn’t long before the people got hungry.

Our story today is called ‘God Provided Manna.’ What’s that? Let’s find out."
LEARN the Bible Story

TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Exodus 16–17. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Provided Manna.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD PROVIDED MANNA

Moses led God’s people from the Red Sea to the wilderness. They were hungry, so they complained to Moses. “We wish we had died in Egypt! At least there was food to eat,” they said. “You brought us out here to starve!” But Moses had not brought them out there to die. God was in control.

God’s glory appeared in a cloud and God said to Moses, “I’ve heard the Israelites’ complaints. Tell them: In the evening you will eat meat, and in the morning you will eat bread until you are full. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.”

Sure enough, quail came into the camp in the evening. In the morning, fine flakes like frost were on the ground. “What is it?” the Israelites asked.

Moses said, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.”

The Israelites called the bread manna, which means “what is it?” God told the people to collect just enough to eat for the day. If they collected too much, the leftovers went bad. He told them to collect twice as much on the sixth day, because the seventh day was the Sabbath—a day to rest.

The Israelites did not always follow God’s instructions. Sometimes they collected too much manna, and sometimes they tried to collect manna on the Sabbath day. God provided for His people, and He wanted them to trust Him and obey Him. The Israelites ate manna for 40 years—the whole time they were in the wilderness.

The Israelites moved about the wilderness as God told them to do. One day, they came to a camp with no water. “Give us something to drink,” they told Moses.

“Why are you complaining to me?” Moses asked.

The Israelites had forgotten that God was with them and had a plan for them. “You brought us out here to die,” they said again.

“Lord, what should I do?” Moses cried out. God showed Moses a rock and instructed him to hit it with his staff. Water came out of it, and the people drank. It was a sign that the Lord was with them.

Christ Connection: God provided water and manna for His people’s physical hunger. Later, He provided His Son, Jesus, for our spiritual hunger. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35). The Israelites needed bread to live for a little while, but whoever has Jesus will live forever.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Call for active listening: As you tell the story, direct the kids to listen for times the people of Israel complained. Each time they hear a complaint, instruct them to give you a thumbs down.

Vary your voice: Use a dramatic voice as you tell the story. Try to use different voices as you say what the people of Israel said and what Moses said.
LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “God’s people had experienced many incredible things—from being led out of Egypt, walking through the middle of the Red Sea on dry land, and now being led by the Lord in the wilderness. When the people faced challenges, did they move forward in confidence, believing that God would help them? [Allow kids to respond.] No! They were quick to forget all that God had done and how He provided for them. They complained. They assumed the worst. Look at Exodus 16:2-3. [Choose a volunteer to read Ex. 16:2-3 aloud.]”

The people thought Moses had brought them out into the wilderness to die. Of course, we can see the bigger picture of what was happening because we have the whole Bible to read. We know that God had a plan.

How did God provide for His people when they were hungry in the desert? [Allow kids to respond.] God provided for the physical needs of His people by sending quail and manna, and He gave them special instructions. Look at Exodus 16:4. [Choose a volunteer to read Ex. 16:4.] God wanted the people to trust that He would provide for them each day.

As God met His people’s physical needs by providing manna, quail, and water, they were reminded that God was always with them."

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “When we trust Jesus for salvation, He is with us too and provides for our greatest needs. God provided manna for His people’s physical hunger. Later, He provided His Son, Jesus, for our spiritual hunger. We cannot save ourselves from sin, but God provided His Son, Jesus, to be the payment for our sins. The Israelites needed bread to live for a little while, but whoever has Jesus will live forever. In Him, we can be saved from the punishment we deserve and have eternal life. [Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.]”

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 5, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why did God’s people want to go back to Egypt where they were slaves?
2. Do you ever forget all God has done for you? How can you remember?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “God provided manna and water for the Israelites in the wilderness. People in New Orleans don’t eat manna, but they do eat beignets (bin YAYs), which are like doughnuts. New Orleans is a city in Louisiana, near the Gulf of Mexico. [Point to New Orleans on a map.] You may have heard of New Orleans because of hurricanes that have hit there or because they..."
have a professional football team, the Saints. New Orleans is a unique city, but just like all cities, it’s a place filled with people who need Jesus.

Play the missions video. Then ask a volunteer to pray for missionaries in New Orleans.

**KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY** (5 minutes)

Before the session, write each word of the key passage plus the reference on separate pieces of construction paper. If your group is large, form smaller groups and prepare several sets.

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 95:6-7 together.

**SAY** Over the next few weeks, we’ll work on memorizing Psalm 95:6-7. These verses remind us that God is worthy of all worship. What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

Mix up the prepared verse pages and display the words in front of the group. Challenge the kids to work together to arrange the words in the correct order. Then lead kids to sing “Come, Let’s Worship (Psalm 95:6-7).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

**PRAY** (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning from LEARN to LOVE.

**SAY** Lord, thank You for being our Provider. You care for all our needs, including our greatest need—to be rescued from sin. Thank You for providing everlasting life to everyone who believes in Jesus. Amen.
LOVE God by Applying the Story

1. REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 16. Explain that in today’s story, the Israelites were in the wilderness (H9).

Consider comparing the Old Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around northeastern Egypt.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 16:6-8.

SAY
In our Bible story today, God provided food for the Israelites when they were hungry. Later, God provided Jesus to meet our greatest need—to be saved from our sins. God cares for us and always does what is right. When we trust Him to meet our spiritual needs, He is faithful and will provide life with Him forever through His Son, Jesus.

GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| SAY | Why do you think the Israelites complained? |

Prompt kids to think about the challenges the people faced, including slavery in Egypt. Explain that our beliefs about God affect our actions and attitudes. Especially in hard times, we must remind ourselves that God is faithful, caring, and present.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 13:5.)

| SAY | What is spiritual hunger? |

Help kids compare spiritual hunger to physical hunger. In times of physical hunger, people long for food. In the same way, people can be hungry in their spirits. It is a feeling of emptiness or a longing that all humans experience. Many times, people try to fill this emptiness with other things, but that only causes more emptiness and longing. Only God can meet our spiritual needs.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 6:35.)

| SAY | How can you trust God to meet your needs? What does trusting Him look like? |

Encourage kids to think about who God is. In the story today, we saw how God continued to provide for His people as they traveled in the desert, even when they complained. God is faithful; He always does what He says He will do. Remind kids that as they study God’s Word and see how God always provides for the needs of His people, they can begin to develop that trusting relationship with Him in their lives.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 4:19.)
LIVE THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: FUN FACTS
Before the session, cut apart the “Fun Facts” and hide them around the room.

SAY God provided for His people’s hunger and thirst in the wilderness. Through Jesus, He provided for our spiritual hunger and thirst. Some missionaries work in New Orleans and teach people about Jesus and how only He can satisfy spiritual hunger and thirst. Many people in New Orleans don’t know Jesus.

Let the kids search the room for fun facts. When they have found them all, direct them to sit in a circle. Invite the kids who found the cards to read them aloud.

SAY What’s your favorite fact about New Orleans? We’ll see in the weeks to come that the missionaries who live in New Orleans are really creative to reach people with the gospel.

☐ OPTION 2: FLYING QUAIL CRAFT
Provide each kid with scissors, tape, one drinking straw, and one quail craft printable.

Instruct kids to cut out the quail and lead them to follow the instructions. Then invite kids to stand at one side of the room and blow through their straws to let their quails fly. Kids may compete to see whose quail flies farthest.

SAY God provided for the needs of His people in the desert. God met His people’s physical needs, and He meets our greatest need. God provides salvation from sin and eternal life through His Son, Jesus. We can respond to God’s provision with worship.

What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)
Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

• What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
• What does the story teach me about myself?
• Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
• Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
• How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for providing everything needed for salvation and eternal life through Jesus and praise Him for His faithfulness to His children. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Gifts from Above” on the activity page.
UNIT 5  |  SESSION 2

GOD GAVE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
EXODUS 19–20

KEY PASSAGE:
Psalm 95:6-7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:
God's law shows us what He requires. Our sin separates us from a holy God, but Jesus came to bring us back to God. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and gives us His perfect righteousness.
LEADER Bible Study

As the rescued people of Israel traveled toward the promised land, God met with Moses at Mount Sinai and made a covenant with the Israelites. We refer to this covenant as the Mosaic covenant. God promised five things in this covenant: 1) Israel will be God’s own possession; 2) Israel will be God’s kingdom of priests; 3) Israel will be a holy nation; 4) God will defend Israel from her enemies; and 5) God will be gracious, merciful, and forgiving to Israel.

Unlike His covenant with Abraham, God’s covenant with Israel was conditional: “Carefully follow every command I am giving you” (Deut. 8:1). “Be careful that you don’t forget the LORD your God by failing to keep his commands” (Deut. 8:11). “If you ever forget the LORD your God ... you will certainly perish.” (Deut. 8:19). Isn’t it interesting how remembering God and obeying Him are so closely linked? You spend the most time thinking about that which you most care about. What occupies the most space in your mind? If we aren’t thinking about God, we aren’t loving Him. And if we aren’t loving Him, we aren’t obeying Him.

We can group the Ten Commandments into two categories: The first four deal with a person’s relationship with God (love God), and the last six deal with a person’s relationship with others (love others).

These laws encompassed every part of the Israelites’ lives and showed what righteous living looks like.

Some people think of the Ten Commandments as a burden, but God’s rules are good and are meant to help us. The Bible is clear that we are all sinful and fall short of God’s standard for holiness. Why should we seek to obey God? Consider Jesus’ words: “If you love me, you will keep my commands” (John 14:15).

Read the Ten Commandments with Jesus in mind. When we are in Christ, our obedience cannot earn us God’s favor, and our disobedience does not separate us from Him. God is pleased with us because He looks at Jesus, who never sinned.

Because of Christ, we have a right relationship with God. He gives us power through the Holy Spirit to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” and to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37,39).
GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.

Activity Page
- "Up the Mountain" activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)
- sticky notes

Introduce the Session
- countdown video

Big Picture Question
- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline
- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story
- "God Gave the Ten Commandments" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids
- "Unit 5, Session 2" questions from kids video

Missions Moment
- Printable: "Williams Missions Posters"

Key Passage Activity
- Key Passage Poster
- "Come, Let's Worship (Psalm 95:6-7)" song
- small ball or beanbag
- worship song of your choice (optional)

Activity Choice (Option 1)
- Printable: "Williams Review"

Activity Choice (Option 2)
- Big Picture Question Poster
- stones, 20 per kid
- acrylic paint
- paint brushes, 1 per kid
- table coverings
- ziplock or paper bags

Journal and Prayer
- Journal Page
- "Rule Rhymes" activity page
WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “What are some of your favorite games to play? Do those games have directions? Have you ever tried to play a game without the instructions? What happened?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Up the Mountain” on the activity page.

SAY “In order to create a beautiful picture, you needed to follow a set of directions. God gave His people rules to live by because He knows what is best.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: YOU MAKE THE RULES

Give each kid a piece of paper. Instruct kids to number their papers from 1 to 10. Prompt them to imagine they are in charge of their school or town. What rules would they enforce?

Give kids a few minutes to write, and then call on volunteers to share their lists. Let the other kids discuss whether or not they agree the rules kids thought of are good rules.

SAY “How did you decide what rules to make? How did you decide if a rule was good or bad? In today’s Bible story, we will hear about some rules God gave to His people, the Israelites. Listen carefully to find out why God gave them rules.”

☐ OPTION 2: TARGET PRACTICE

Before the session, create a target (graduated circles) on the floor with masking tape. Challenge kids to stand at a distance and toss beanbags at the target.

Allow kids to toss the beanbags at least five times each. Instruct them keep track of how many times they hit the bull’s-eye.

SAY “Did anyone hit the bull’s-eye every time? No. No one is perfect, right? In today’s Bible story, we will hear how God gave His people rules to show that He is holy. He wants us to be holy too. There’s just one problem. We can’t obey all the rules God gives us. No one can keep God’s law perfectly except Jesus.”

Transition from WELCOME to LEARN
LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)
Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY "Hi, there! I’m [your name]. I’m glad you came today. If you brought your Bible, hold it up. [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] Can anyone tell me what the Bible is about? [Allow kids to respond.] The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us the wonderful story of God’s plan to rescue sinners.

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. Have you ever heard of the Ten Commandments? Can anyone name one of the commandments? [Allow kids to respond.] The Ten Commandments show us what God requires. God is our Creator, and He knows what is best for us. Our Bible story today will help us understand why God gave His people the Ten Commandments.

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY "The last time we met together, we talked about our big picture question. Does anyone remember it? What is worship? Here’s the answer: Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

We’re discovering some of the ways God is great and why He deserves our worship. God is our good Creator. He loves us and provides for us. He is faithful, always keeping His promises. As we grow in our relationship with God, our desire to worship Him will grow too. So, let’s review. What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God. Think about that as we hear from God’s Word today.

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (2 minutes)
Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY "Last time, we learned how God provided for His people in the wilderness. God’s people were hungry, and they complained. God heard them and provided for their physical hunger. Do you remember what God gave His people to eat? (manna, quail) Today we will hear how God provided special rules for His people. Our Bible story is called ‘God Gave the Ten Commandments.’"
LEARN the Bible Story

TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Exodus 19–20. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Gave the Ten Commandments.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD GAVE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Three months after the Israelites left Egypt, they came to Mount Sinai (SIGH nigh). God had chosen the Israelites as His special people and wanted them to understand what that relationship should look like. He planned to make a covenant, or agreement, with them.

Moses went up the mountain. God told him, “This is what you should tell the Israelites: ‘If you listen carefully to Me and you keep My covenant, you will be My people.’ ”

Moses went back to the people and told them what God had said. All the people responded, “We will do all that the Lord has spoken.” So Moses went back up the mountain. The Lord spoke to Moses, “I am going to come in a thick cloud. I want the people to hear Me speak to you so that they will believe you.”

Moses went back down the mountain and got the people ready to meet God. He brought them out of the camp, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

God came down on Mount Sinai in a fire. Smoke covered the mountain. God said, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.”

Then God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The first four commandments told the Israelites what it looks like to have a right relationship with God: “Do not have other gods besides Me. Do not make an idol for yourself. Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

The last six commandments told the Israelites what it looks like to have a right relationship with one another: “Honor your father and your mother. Do not murder. Keep your marriage promises. Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not want what belongs to someone else.”

When the people heard God talking to Moses, they were afraid. “Do not be afraid,” Moses said. “God wants you to fear Him so that you will not sin.”

Moses went further up the mountain. For 40 days, God gave Moses many more laws. When God was finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two stone tablets that He had written on with His own finger.

Christ Connection: God’s law shows us what He requires. Our sin separates us from a holy God, but Jesus came to bring us back to God. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and gives us His perfect righteousness.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Display pictures: Display pictures or drawings of Mount Sinai from a study Bible or online. Show modern-day pictures of Mount Sinai to help kids realize that it is a real place.

Use dramatic voice: As you tell the story, differentiate your voice for each person speaking.
LEARN
THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “Open your Bibles to Exodus 19. Look at verses 4-6. [Choose a volunteer to read the verses aloud.] In these verses, God told Moses what to say to His people. In verse 4, what did God want His people to remember? [Allow kids to respond.] God wanted His people to remember how He had cared for them. When we remember God’s power and how He has worked in our lives and the lives of others, we begin to learn more about His character. God is trustworthy and worthy of our obedience. His plan is always the best plan because He loves and cares for His people.

The Israelites continued to disobey God, but each time God brought them back to Himself. Verses 5 and 6 tell us that God wanted to form a relationship with the Israelites. He wanted the people to listen to Him and be His chosen people.

Moses took the message from God to the Israelites and the Israelites agreed that they would listen to God and be His people. So, God gave them His law. God’s law is not just a set of rules people should obey, but it is a picture of the way God designed things to be. The law is like a mirror; it shows us our sin that separates us from God. Because of God’s love and mercy, He provided a way to bring us back to Him.”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “God’s law shows us what He requires. Our sin separates us from a holy God, but Jesus came to bring us back to God. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and gives us His perfect righteousness.” (Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 5, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:
1. Do we have to follow the Ten Commandments today?
2. What should motivate us to obey God?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the missions posters.

SAY “The Ten Commandments teach us how to love God and love other people. One way we can love others is by sharing the gospel. Missionaries love others in that way. Some missionaries are church planters. That means that they go to an area where there are too few churches and start new ones. It can be difficult to be a church planter because it takes a long time to grow a church. But it can be a great way to show Jesus to a community. Let’s learn about a couple who became church-planting missionaries in the United States.”
Use the posters to teach the kids about the Williamses. Ask a volunteer to pray for the Williamses and Next Level Church. Also pray for any missionaries your church supports.

**KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY** *(5 minutes)*

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 95:6-7 together.

**SAY**

God displayed His power and glory to Moses and the Israelites on Mount Sinai. He is worthy of worship! Let’s work on memorizing Psalm 95:6-7.

Direct kids to spread out around the room. Give one kid a small ball or bean bag. Direct the kid holding the ball to say the first word of the key passage. Then toss the ball to another kid, who will say the next word of the key passage and toss the ball. Continue until the whole verse has been said. Repeat the game as time allows.

Lead kids to sing “Come, Let’s Worship (Psalm 95:6-7).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

**PRAY** *(2 minutes)*

Invite kids to pray before transitioning from **LEARN** to **LOVE**.

**SAY**

Lord, You are a great and holy God. Thank You for loving and caring for Your people. Thank You that even while we were dead in our sin, You provided salvation and true life through Jesus. May our lives bring honor and glory to You. Amen.
LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 19. Explain that Mount Sinai (19) is a real place located in modern-day Egypt. Consider comparing the Old Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map.

Explain that God met with Moses and gave His people the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. God only allowed Moses and Aaron to come to the top of the mountain to meet with Him. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 19:18.

SAY The Bible says God completely covered Mount Sinai in smoke. God’s glory covered the mountain so much that this huge mountain shook. God instructed Moses not to allow the people to come to the top of the mountain because if they saw God in His glory, they would die. On Mount Sinai, God gave the people His law which showed them what He requires. We cannot keep the law. In fact, the law shows us our sinfulness that separates us from God. God wants us to have a relationship with Him. Through Jesus we can have forgiveness of our sins and come to God.

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY What covenant did God make with His people?

Remind kids that a covenant is an agreement. When God made a covenant with His people, He expected them to listen and obey what He said and, in turn, God would make the Israelites His people. The Israelites did not keep their side of the covenant agreement with God. But God, in His mercy and grace, established a new covenant through Jesus. When we trust Jesus we can be saved from our sins and be God’s children forever.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 7:22.)

SAY Can we ever satisfy the requirements of God’s law? Why?

Prompt kids to go through each of the Ten Commandments God gave to His people and consider whether they have ever broken any of them. Explain that in the New Testament, Jesus taught that even those who are angry are guilty like those who murder. The Bible tells us that everyone has sinned and if people say they have never sinned, they are lying.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 3:10.)

SAY How is the gospel good news for lawbreakers?

Help kids recognize that God provided a Rescuer: His Son, Jesus. Jesus is our hope. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves. Salvation from sin and eternal life come only through Jesus.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 2:8-9.)
LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: FAITH AND FITNESS

SAY Next Level Church lives on mission to love God and love other people, just as the Ten Commandments teach us to do. Who remembers something unique that Next Level Church does with kids? (fitness camps) We’re going to see how much you remember about our missionaries, but while we do that we’re going to try a few exercise moves like the ones done at a Level Up Fitness Camp.

Lead the kids in some different exercises, like jumping jacks, knee lifts, jogging in place, and stretches.

Between exercises, use the “Williams Review” printable to help the kids recall what they’ve learned about the Williamses.

☐ OPTION 2: TEN COMMANDMENTS TOSS

Create two posters: label one poster Ten Commandments and the other poster Not the Ten Commandments. Form two teams and give one player on each team a beanbag.

Explain that the players will compete by listening to a command. The first player to land her beanbag on the correct sign indicating whether the command is one of the Ten Commandments or not earns a point for her team.

Read a command from Exodus 20:1-17 or make up your own. Award points accordingly. Then choose two new players to collect the beanbags and face off. Play additional rounds as time allows.

SAY God’s law shows us what He requires, but we fail to obey Him. Our sin separates us from a holy God, but Jesus came to bring us back to God. When we trust in Jesus, He takes away our sin and gives us His perfect righteousness.

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

• What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
• What does the story teach me about myself?
• Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
• Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
• How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, praising God for his holiness and thanking Him for sending His Son to save us from our sin. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Rule Rhymes” on the activity page.
UNIT 5 | SESSION 3

THE PEOPLE WORSHIPED A GOLDEN Calf
EXODUS 32-34

KEY PASSAGE:
Psalm 95:6-7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:
Moses acted as the people’s mediator, standing for them before God. Moses could not do anything to make up for their sin, but we have a better Mediator—Jesus. Jesus paid for our sin on the cross and stands for us before God. When we trust in Jesus, our sins are forgiven.
LEADER Bible Study

After all God had done for the Israelites, the story of the Israelites’ worshiping a golden calf may seem surprising. How could God’s people turn so quickly from God, who delivered them from slavery and provided for them, even after they explicitly agreed to do everything He had commanded? (See Ex. 24:3.) When we think about the reasons why Israel fell into idolatry, we recognize that we are vulnerable to the same follies.

First, we fail to obey God’s Word. The Israelites disobeyed the second of the Ten Commandments: “Do not make an idol for yourself.” This might sound like an easy commandment to keep; you aren’t crafting little statues to worship, right? Idolatry is dangerous because it’s rooted in the heart. Our idols don’t always look like golden calves. Idols are anything or anyone our sinful hearts look to, seeking what only God provides—such as true joy, meaning, or hope.

Second, we distrust God’s purposes. The Israelites stopped trusting in God, who showed Himself to be powerful and good. They wanted their false god to save them. They thought God’s plan wasn’t working, so they made a plan of their own. Are you ever tempted to do the same? When we forget who God is and think too highly of ourselves or others, we put a person in the place of God.

Third, we forget God’s grace. Aaron gave credit to the man-made idol for bringing the Israelites out of Egypt. We might convince ourselves that our success comes from the work of our own hands or the favor of other people. When we forget that every good gift comes from God, we fall into idolatry.

Finally, we fail to use our gifts to the glory of God. Don’t miss that the Israelites used the plunder from Egypt—God’s provision to them—to make the calf. We too can often use the gifts God has given us for our own satisfaction and to draw attention to ourselves, rather than to the One who gave them to us.

God was angry with the Israelites. He is a jealous God who will not give His glory to another. (See Isa. 42:8.) Yet we see how Moses stepped in between God and the people to intercede on their behalf. As those who have Jesus Christ as our Mediator, we trust in His power to overcome our idolatries and empower us for His mission.
GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.
WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Think of a time you did something you knew was wrong. How did you feel? Did you try to make it right? Why or why not?”

ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Image of Gold” on the activity page.

SAY “What is happening in this picture? Today, we will learn how God’s people sinned and made an idol to worship instead of God. Moses talked to God on behalf of the people as their mediator, asking Him to forgive their sin.”

SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: THE GO-BETWEEN

Form two teams of kids. Instruct teams to sit together at one end of the room. Give each team a piece of paper. Appoint one kid on each team to be the Mediator. Explain that when you say go, the Mediator should come to you for an instruction, relay the instructions to his team, and then come back for another instruction. The first team to correctly follow all instructions wins:

1. Two kids should draw a star.
2. All kids must list their names.
3. Rewrite the names in alphabetical order.
4. Circle any names that begin with a vowel.

SAY “Without the Mediator, you wouldn’t have known what instructions to follow. In the Bible story we will hear today, Moses acted as a mediator between God and the Israelites. A mediator is someone who works between two people or groups to settle an argument or dispute.”

OPTION 2: CLAY COWS

Give each kid a fist-sized lump of yellow clay or play dough. Encourage them to knead the clay and form a golden calf. Applaud kids for their efforts. Then instruct kids to smash their clay cows.

SAY “An idol is anything we love more than God—ourselves, other people, or created things. In today’s Bible story, we will hear about a time the Israelites worshiped a golden calf. Why would they do that? Why would they turn away from the one true God to worship an idol? Let’s find out what happened.”

Transition from WELCOME to LEARN
INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1. **INTRODUCE THE SESSION** (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** Hey, everyone! I am so glad you are here. I'm [your name]. If you brought your Bible today, hold it up. [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] Can anyone tell me what the Bible is about? [Allow kids to respond.] The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us the wonderful story of God’s plan to rescue sinners.

The Bible tells us what is true. The stories in the Bible really happened, and the people we hear about really lived. When we read about people in the Bible, we sometimes discover that what was true about them can be true about us too.

2. **BIG PICTURE QUESTION** (1 minute)

**SAY** For the past two weeks we have been thinking about a big picture question. Our big picture question helps us remember a bigger truth about God or ourselves. The big picture question is, What is worship? Does anyone remember what the answer is? [Allow kids to respond.] **Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.**

As we get to know God and discover who He is, we cannot help but celebrate. Worshiping might look like praying, singing, reading the Bible, hearing from the Bible, or another activity that honors God. He alone deserves our worship. **What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.**

3. **REVIEW THE TIMELINE** (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** In the first books of the Bible, we heard how God created a special people for Himself through the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob's descendants—the Israelites—lived as slaves in Egypt, but God sent Moses to lead them out of Egypt to a land of their own: the promised land.

We have been learning about the Israelites' time in the wilderness after Moses led them out of Egypt. God did some great things for them by parting the Red Sea and providing food and instruction for how to live. How did God’s people respond? Did they worship God like He deserves? Well, today’s Bible story is called ‘The People Worshiped a Golden Calf.’ Hmm, that doesn't seem quite right. Let’s find out what happened.
THE PEOPLE WORSHIPPED A GOLDEN CALF

Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights. While God met with Moses, the Israelites at the bottom of the mountain were getting impatient. They began to wonder, Where is Moses? What is taking him so long? Is he still alive?

The Israelites went to Moses’ brother, Aaron. “Make us a god to lead us,” they said. “We don’t know what happened to Moses.” So Aaron collected gold from the people and made a statue of a calf that they could worship.

God saw what the people were doing, and He was angry. “I will destroy these people,” God said.

Moses said, “Remember the great promise You made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You promised to give them as many offspring as there are stars in the sky. You promised to bless them and give them land.” So God did not destroy them.

Moses went down the mountain carrying two stone tablets on which God had written the laws. Moses got closer to the camp and saw that the people were dancing before the golden calf! He threw down the stone tablets, smashing them at the bottom of the mountain. Then he destroyed the golden calf.

The next day, Moses went back up the mountain to talk to God. “These people sinned against You,” he said. “Please forgive their sin.”

God told Moses to return to the people and lead them. “When the time comes, I will punish them for their sin,” God said. God sent a terrible sickness to the people because they worshiped the golden calf.

God continued to meet with Moses and give him laws and instructions. One morning, Moses went up the mountain to meet with God. God came down in a cloud. He said, “The LORD is a compassionate and gracious God … but He will not leave the guilty unpunished.”

Moses bowed down and worshiped God. “Lord, please go with us,” he said. “Forgive our sin, and accept us as Your people.”

Christ Connection: Moses acted as the people’s mediator, standing for them before God. Moses could not do anything to make up for their sin, but we have a better Mediator—Jesus. Jesus paid for our sin on the cross and stands for us before God. When we trust in Jesus, our sins are forgiven.
LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY  Open your Bible to Exodus 32. When Moses was on Mount Sinai meeting with God, what did the people decide to do? [Allow kids to respond.] They grew impatient and asked Moses’ brother, Aaron, to make them an idol to worship. Without their leader Moses, the Israelites were looking for someone to follow. God’s people were out of control. They danced and worshiped the golden calf. God saw their sin, and He was angry.

Do you remember our big picture question? What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God. Worship is meant to be reserved only for God. No one and nothing else deserves to be worshiped.

[Choose a volunteer to read Ex. 32:7-8 aloud.] God told Moses to return to the people because they had already turned away from what God had commanded of them. What did Moses tell the people when he saw what they had done? [Select a volunteer to read Ex. 32:30.]

Moses told the people that they had sinned against the Lord and that he would ask God for forgiveness on their behalf. Moses knew that the people had disobeyed God and what He commanded of them. He knew that they did not deserve forgiveness. Moses acted as their mediator, standing for them before God. God punished His people for their sin by sending sickness, but God showed mercy to them by continuing to meet with Moses and care for them as His chosen people.

CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY  Moses acted as the people’s mediator, standing for them before God. Moses could not do anything to make up for their sin, but we have a better Mediator—Jesus. God’s plan is to rescue His people from captivity, not only physical captivity like He rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, but spiritual captivity—slavery to sin. Jesus paid for our sin on the cross and stands before God for us. When we trust in Jesus, our sins are forgiven. What good news!

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

QUESTIONS FROM KIDS  (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 5, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why did the people worship an idol? Did they really think a statue could do anything for them?
2. What idols might you be tempted to worship? Why?

MISSIONS MOMENT  (3 minutes)

SAY  Only God deserves our worship, but sometimes our sinful hearts lead us to worship the wrong things—like when the Israelites worshiped the golden calf. Missionaries work to help people
learn to worship God alone.

Bobby and LaKeisha Williams are church planters in New Orleans, Louisiana. It’s common in North America to think that missionaries have to travel to some place far away, but many missionaries work in the United States. Does anyone remember what someone is called who starts a new church in an area where more churches are needed? (a church planter)

Play the missions video. Close in prayer for the Williamses and for any missionaries your church supports.

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session use a dry erase marker to write each word from the key passage on a separate interlocking plastic block. Be sure to include the reference. Prepare one set of verse blocks for each group of up to five kids.

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 95:6-7 together.

Our key passage reminds us why we are to worship the Lord. He is our Maker and is worthy of our praise. Let’s continue memorizing Psalm 95:6-7.

Form groups of five or fewer kids. Distribute block sets. Challenge kids to work together to build a block tower, placing the words to the key passage in order.

Lead kids to sing “Come, Let’s Worship (Psalm 95:6-7).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning from LEARN to LOVE.

God, thank You for loving us, even in our sin. Thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sins so we can be forgiven and spend eternity with You. Help us to live in a way that honors You. Amen.
Love God by Applying the Story

1. Review & Bible Skills (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 34. Explain that God only allowed Moses to meet with Him on Mount Sinai (19), but God would not show Moses His face because no one could see God’s glory and live.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Egypt.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 34:6-8.

**Say** Moses wasn’t able to see God’s face when he was on Mount Sinai, but just being with God caused him to fall down in worship. As Moses considered God's mercy, grace, and forgiveness, he was overwhelmed with the goodness of God. When we experience God’s mercy and forgiveness, we can respond in worship.

2. Group Discussion (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**Say** Does God always punish sin? Why?

Help kids understand that God is just. That means He will always do what is right. Sin must be punished and the Bible says that the punishment for sin is death. All people have sinned, so all people deserve death. But God, in His mercy and grace, provided a way to be saved from the punishment of sin.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 6:23.)

**Say** How is Jesus our Mediator?

Allow kids to share their understanding of a mediator based on today’s story. Help them recognize that Jesus took the punishment for our sin on the cross and gives His righteousness to all who trust in Him. Jesus stands before God on behalf of anyone who trusts Him as Savior. He has paid for our sin, so when God sees us, He no longer sees our sin, but Jesus’ righteousness.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Cor. 5:21.)

**Say** What should we do when we sin?

Point out that the Bible says that if we confess our sins to Him, He will forgive us. Encourage kids that God wants us to confess that we were wrong and ask Him to forgive us. Once God saves us, nothing can separate us from God, but confessing our sins to God is an important part of developing a close relationship with Him.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 1:9.)
LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: FEED THE NEED

Before the session, learn about a food distribution ministry in your area and how your church could support the ministry.

SAY “The Israelites were wrong to collect gold and build an idol. Church-planting missionaries like the Williamses use donations and offerings they receive for God’s glory. One way Next Level Church helps their community is by giving food to people who need it. One way we can live on mission and show God’s love is by helping people in need. We can donate food, give money, or volunteer our time to help organize or distribute food.”

Tell the kids about a food distribution ministry in your area. With church leaders’ permission, invite kids to make posters to hang in the church that encourage church members to get involved in the food ministry in your area. Consider distributing information for families to be involved together.

☐ OPTION 2: QUICK REACTIONS

Explain that you will announce some news and kids should clap to indicate how excited they are about it. Point out the news that gets the loudest applause.

Read the “news,” pausing for kids to respond each time:
1. You were voted most valuable player on your basketball team.
2. You got an A on the math test.
3. You get to have dinner with a celebrity.
4. Jesus died on the cross for you.

SAY “In today’s Bible story, God’s people sinned against God. They worshiped a golden calf while Moses was up on the mountain. It was wrong for them to worship the golden calf because only God deserves our worship. What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

• What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
• What does the story teach me about myself?
• Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
• Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
• How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for providing Jesus to take the punishment for our sins so we can have forgiveness and eternal life. As time allows, lead kids to complete “How Did It Happen?” on the activity page.
KEY PASSAGE:
Psalm 95:6-7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:
God told the Israelites to build a tabernacle where He would dwell with them. God wants to be with His people. As part of His plan to save sinners, God sent Jesus to dwell on earth with people.
LEADER Bible Study

One of the key themes of the Bible is God’s desire to live with the people He created. We see this first in God’s creating the garden of Eden, placing Adam and Eve into this paradise, and then presumably coming down regularly to be with them. But when Adam and Eve rebelled against Creator God, one consequence of their sin was expulsion from the garden. No longer would God live with them as He had before.

Generations later, God instructed His people to do something curious: build a tent. Why? This tent, the tabernacle, would not be a place for treasures or food; no animals or people would live in it. This would be God’s tent, where He would dwell among His people, pointing back to Eden. Whenever the Israelites traveled, they broke down this tent and carried it with them. Then, when they arrived at their destination, they set up the tent once more—strategically and meaningfully placed in the center of the camp. God was not just with His people, He was at the center of His people. That was the place He deserved.

Note one feature of the tabernacle that would later give way to the permanent temple built in Jerusalem: the veil, or curtain. The innermost chamber of the tabernacle was called the holy of holies, or most holy place. This is where God’s presence would be manifested above the ark of the covenant and mercy seat. This sacred area was separated from the next outer chamber—the holy place—by a heavy curtain. We later learn in Leviticus that only the high priest could enter into the holy of holies once a year—on the Day of Atonement. This curtain, then, was a picture of the ongoing separation between humanity and God because of sin. God wanted to dwell with people, but sin was preventing that from happening in full.

When Jesus came and paid the sin penalty for people, that curtain tore from top to bottom, symbolizing that entry into the holy of holies had been made through Jesus. But sin continues to corrupt the world, which is why one day Jesus will return, put an end to sin and death, and renew creation.

This is how the story of Scripture ends in Revelation—with Christ establishing His kingdom in a new heaven and earth and dwelling with His people forever. What God intended from the beginning will mark the beginning of eternity.

**TERMS TO KNOW**

*Tabernacle:* a portable tent where God met with His people. The word tabernacle means “dwelling place.” God wanted to dwell among them. (See Ex. 29:45-46.)
GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.

WELCOME

Activity Page
☐ “Supply Sorting” activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)
☐ long pieces of rope or twine, 1 per group
☐ blindfolds, 4

LEARN

Introduce the Session
☐ countdown video

Big Picture Question
☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline
☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story
☐ “The People Built the Tabernacle” video
☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids
☐ “Unit 5, Session 4” questions from kids video

Missions Moment
☐ Printable: “SEND Relief Photo”

Key Passage Activity
☐ Key Passage Poster
☐ “Come, Let’s Worship (Psalm 95:6-7)” song
☐ worship song of your choice (optional)

LOVE

Review & Bible Skills
☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set
☐ world map

LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)
☐ large building blocks
☐ poster board

Activity Choice (Option 2)
☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Journal and Prayer
☐ Journal Page
☐ “Place with a Purpose” activity page
**WELCOME Kids**

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** Can you think of someone that you enjoy spending time with? What do you like to do when you are together?

**ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)**

Invite kids to complete “Supply Sorting” on the activity page.

**SAY** Today, we will learn that God wants to be with His people, so God instructed the Israelites to build a tabernacle where He would dwell with them.

**SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)**

**OPTION 1: BLINDFOLDED BUILDING**

Form groups of five kids. Choose one group to come to the front of the room. Give four of the kids a blindfold. The kid without the blindfold will be the group leader.

Help kids put on blindfolds and direct them to stand in a straight line. Lay a rope at their feet. At your signal, kids should pick up the rope. Call out a shape and challenge the group to form the shape without looking and without dropping the rope.

The group leader may call out directions to help the group form the shape, but may not touch any member of the group. Once kids have formed the shape, they should freeze and remove their blindfolds. Repeat until every group has had a turn.

**SAY** Would this game have been more difficult without the group leader there to tell you where you should go? In today’s Bible story, we will hear how God instructed His people to build a place where He would dwell with them. He told them just what to do.

**OPTION 2: GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

Announce a category and instruct kids to find at least one other kid who shares their answers. When kids find others they have something in common with, the kids should stand together. Allow time for most of the kids to sort themselves before announcing another category.

Suggested categories:
- number of siblings
- favorite color
- preferred type of pet
- number of places you’ve lived
- birthday month

**SAY** Did you learn anything new about one another? Were you surprised by anyone’s answers? As we will see in today’s Bible story, God wants to be with us and He wants us to know Him. He knows us and loves us. Let’s find out what God told His people to do so He would dwell with them.
INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY Welcome! I’m [your name]. It’s so good to see you. If you brought your Bible, hold it up. [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] The Bible is a big book! Can anyone tell me what the Bible is about? [Allow kids to respond.] The Bible is God’s Word. It is full of stories about who God is and what He has done. It tells us about real people and events, and all the stories fit together to tell us the one big, wonderful story of God’s plan to rescue sinners.

At the beginning of the Bible—in Genesis 3—we can read how sin entered the world. Sin separates us from God, but we see that God didn’t give up on people. He wants to have a relationship with us! The Bible tells us everything we need to know to have a relationship with God.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY Do you remember our big picture question? It helps us focus on a bigger truth from the Bible. [Pause for kids to respond.] What is worship? The answer to that question is, Worship is celebrating the greatness of God. When we read and hear from the Bible, sing songs, and pray, we are celebrating God! He is honored when we gather together to worship Him. Keep that in mind when you hear today’s Bible story.

REVIEW THE TIMELINE (2 minutes)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY God had always been with His people, leading them and guiding them. God led His people as they traveled in the wilderness. He led them by a cloud during the day and by a fire at night. Last time, we heard how the people of Israel strayed from God’s commands and worshiped an idol they made out of gold. God punished their sin but still cared for the Israelites as His people.

Today’s Bible story is called 'The People Built the Tabernacle.' We will learn how God instructed His people to build a special place where they could meet with Him. Let’s find out more.
THE PEOPLE BUILT THE TABERNACLE

God spoke to Moses on the mountain and gave him very specific instructions for building a tabernacle. The tabernacle would be a huge tent that the Israelites could take with them wherever they went. God would meet with His people in the tabernacle.

Moses told the Israelites everything God said. He asked them to bring materials: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet yarn; fine linen and goat hair; animal skins; wood; oil; spices; and gemstones.

God gave two men, Bezalel (BEHZ uh lehl) and Oholiab (oh HOH lih ab), special skills for crafting things. Bezalel, Oholiab, and all the other skilled craftsmen came together to build the tabernacle. The people kept bringing offerings. Pretty soon, the craftsmen told Moses, “The people are bringing more than enough. We don’t need all of this.” So Moses told the Israelites to stop bringing their offerings.

The craftsmen built the tabernacle just as God instructed. The tabernacle had 10 long curtains made out of linen. Eleven curtains made out of goat hair formed a tent over the tabernacle. Inside the tabernacle, the people made a veil. They made a wooden box covered in gold called an ark, a table, a lampstand, and many other parts. Every part had a special purpose.

God told Moses to bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tabernacle. Aaron put on special holy garments, and Moses anointed him to be priest. Aaron’s sons were also anointed to serve God as priests.

Before, God had led the Israelites from a cloud; now the cloud covered the tabernacle. God’s glory filled the tabernacle. God made a sign for the people: If the cloud covered the tabernacle, the people would stay where they were. When the cloud lifted from the tabernacle, the Israelites would move and take the tabernacle with them.

The cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle during the day, and fire was inside the cloud at night. All the Israelites could see it as they traveled.

Christ Connection: God told the Israelites to build a tabernacle where He would dwell with them. God wants to be with His people. As part of His plan to save sinners, God sent Jesus to dwell on earth with people.
LEARN
THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY "God desires to be with His people. Open your Bible to Exodus 40. God led the people of Israel as they journeyed. God instructed the people to build a tabernacle, a place where He would dwell with His people.

Before, God had met with Moses on Mount Sinai, but now, God wanted to be among the people, so He gave them very specific instructions as to how to build the tabernacle and meet with Him there. The people of Israel obeyed God’s instructions to build the tabernacle.

Look at verses 36-38. [Choose a volunteer to read the verses aloud.] God led His people by His presence. During the day when a cloud was over the tabernacle, the people would know that the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. At night, if a fire filled the tabernacle, the people would know that the Lord was there. If the cloud moved, the people would know it was time to move.

God wants to be with His people. He made Himself visible through a cloud and a fire, but later, God would send His only Son, Jesus, to earth to dwell among people. Through Jesus, we can have salvation from the sins that separate us from God. When we experience forgiveness through Jesus, we can know with confidence that we will dwell with God forever."

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY "God told the Israelites to build a tabernacle where He would dwell with them. God wants to be with His people. As part of His plan to save sinners, God sent Jesus to dwell on earth with people."

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 5, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. God is everywhere, so why do Christians go to church?
2. How has the church encouraged or helped you to follow Jesus?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY "God gave His people instructions for building the tabernacle where He would meet with them. Because of Jesus, we can meet with God anywhere. Still, it can be helpful for a church to have a building to use for ministry. Bobby and LaKeisha Williams were able to plant their church in New Orleans thanks to churches like ours.

When we give money to missions offerings, we help equip missionaries like the Williamses with a building, electricity, sound equipment, office equipment, and whatever else they need to live and work where God has called them to take the gospel."
Show the SEND Relief photo. Explain that missions organizations also meet needs through relief efforts after a community has experienced a hurricane, tornado, earthquake, flood, or other disaster. Christian volunteers are often the first helpers on the scene when bad things happen, assisting people and teaching them about the love of Jesus. The organizations even help people living in poverty get clean water, food, and shelter.

Ask a volunteer to pray for missionaries and volunteers who help people facing disasters. Pray also for any missionaries your church supports.

**KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)**

Before the session, write each word of the key passage on a separate sticky note. Attach the sticky notes to the bottom of kids’ chairs.

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 95:6-7 together.

**SAY**

We learned today that God wants to be with His people. Let’s continue to memorize Psalm 95:6-7 that reminds us that He is our God and we are His people.

Direct kids to look under their chairs. Invite anyone who has a sticky note under his chair to line up across the front of the room. Challenge the kids to arrange themselves in order and then say the verse aloud.

Lead kids to sing “Come, Let’s Worship (Psalm 95:6-7).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

**PRAY (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before transitioning from LEARN to LOVE.

**SAY**

Thank You, God, for wanting to be with us. Thank You for Your mercy and grace in sending Your Son so that we can have eternal life with You forever. Help us to listen and follow You.

Amen.
REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 35. Point out that Moses was at Mount Sinai (9) when he received God’s instructions for building the tabernacle. The Israelites could move the tabernacle with them as they traveled in the wilderness.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around the Sinai Peninsula in northeastern Egypt.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Exodus 35:1.

SAY God laid out several commands for His people. These commands helped the people know how to best live and how to construct the tabernacle so God would dwell with them. Throughout Exodus 35–40, God gave His people directions. He knows what is best. Sometimes, we don’t like being told what to do, but when we trust God as Lord, we trust that He loves us and has the best plans for us.

GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY Without a tabernacle, how can we meet with God? Help kids recognize that because of Jesus, we have full access to God through prayer and are able to be with Him forever. God met with His people in the tabernacle, and later, in a temple, which was a more permanent building. At Jesus’ death, the Bible says that the curtain that separated the place where God dwelt from the rest of the temple, was torn in two, demonstrating that we can meet with God.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 27:51.)

SAY How do you feel knowing God wants a personal relationship with you? Invite kids to share their thoughts about God being personal, loving, and near. Prompt them to think about how they build relationships with other people. Building a relationship takes time spent together, talking, and getting to know one another. God wants to spend time with His children and He wants us to know Him.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 1:12.)

SAY How does God lead His children today? Help kids recognize that God does not leave His children alone, without direction, but that He has given us everything we need to live in a way that brings Him glory. God leads His children by His Word, the Bible and through time spent in prayer. When we become children of God, He also gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit Who helps us understand God’s Word and how to apply it to our lives.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Pet. 1:3.)
LIVE the Mission

ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

1. **OPTION 1: SERVE WITH LOVE**
   Before the session, write the words of Matthew 5:16 on a poster board. Display the poster and lead kids to read the verse together.

   **SAY** “Today, we learned about craftsmen whom God gave incredible skill. They used that skill to serve God and build the tabernacle exactly as God commanded. Service is an important part of missions. When we serve others, we can reflect the goodness of Jesus. When missionaries and volunteers help people clean up after a storm, serve food, and are present for strangers after a disaster, God gets glory. People see that Jesus is loving, caring, and kind.”

   Guide the kids to build a structure with blocks, and then let them knock it down. As they rebuild it, lead them to say the verse together.

2. **OPTION 2: PART OF THE PLAN**
   Direct kids to take turns playing charades to help the rest of the group identify one thing they enjoy doing (painting, singing, playing outside, spending time with friends, etc.).

   After the group guesses what a kid enjoys, challenge the group to brainstorm ways that activity could be used to tell others about God. For example, if a kid enjoys playing outside, she could help a neighbor rake leaves or pull weeds and, in the process, share about Jesus. Help kids recognize that God can use their gifts, talents, and abilities for His glory, even while they are young.

   **SAY** “Today, we heard how God used the Israelites and people with special skills to create and build items for the tabernacle. God wants to be with His people, and He can use our special skills and talents to point others to Him.”

JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God that He desires a relationship with us and for giving His Son to provide the way of spending eternity with Him. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Place with a Purpose” on the activity page.
KEY PASSAGE:
Psalm 95:6-7

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:
God deserves our worship. He created us to be in a relationship with Him, and He has provided salvation from sin through His Son, Jesus. We can worship God by loving and obeying Him as we live to give Him glory.
LEADER Bible Study

Think back to Eden. When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, their eyes were opened and they realized their nakedness. What was once no problem in their innocence had become shameful in their sinfulness. So the couple took leaves to try to cover their bodies and their shame. But what did God do just before expelling the couple from Eden to face a fallen world on their own? He made clothing for them out of animal skins. (See Gen. 3:21)

Why? God may have had a practical reason; leaves would not last very long as clothing. But there is likely a deeper, spiritual reason for what He did. In order to clothe Adam and Eve with animal skins, animals would have to die. God had told Adam and Eve that death would result from the Fall, and this was a way to affirm God's word. As Adam and Eve exited the garden, then, they wore on their bodies an ever-present reminder that sin leads to death—perhaps not immediately, perhaps indirectly, but always.

Fast forward to Leviticus. By this time, we have seen animal sacrifices offered to God (e.g., by Abel, Noah, Abram, and the Israelites during the Passover). But now, God was taking the next step and sharing His requirements of how sacrifices were to be made. Leviticus gives great detail of what specific sacrifices were to be offered for what purposes. Some of the sacrifices were voluntary, but some were not. Blood must be shed because of sin, as God had promised would happen.

But, we have to be careful not to go too far with these animal sacrifices. These sacrifices themselves could not save anyone. (See Heb. 10:4.) So what did they do? Why were they needed then? When God commanded His people to perform these sacrifices, He was calling them to act upon their faith in Him. This faith was anchored to the awareness that their sins had separated them from a holy God and that God's word is true: death was required because of sin.

God had promised that a Person—a descendant of Eve—would be the snake crusher. This is the faith that Israel's sacrifices pointed to: a future once-and-for-all death of a Savior, a sacrifice that was made by Christ Jesus.

SACRIFICES

Voluntary offerings:
- burnt (for propitiation for sin and commitment to God)
- grain (for thanksgiving)
- fellowship (for fellowship with God)

Mandatory offerings:
- sin (for unintentional sin or uncleanness)
- guilt (for purification)
**GATHER Supplies**

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.

**Activity Page**
- “Wilderness Review” activity page

**Introduce the Session**
- countdown video

**Big Picture Question**
- Big Picture Question Poster

**Review the Timeline**
- Giant Timeline

**Tell the Bible Story**
- “God Deserves Our Worship” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

**Questions from Kids**
- “Unit 5, Session 5” questions from kids video

**Missions Moment**
- large sheet of paper

**Key Passage Activity**
- Key Passage Poster
- “Come, Let’s Worship (Psalm 95:6-7)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)

**Activity Choice (Option 1)**
- play food
- paper plates
- painter’s tape

**Activity Choice (Option 2)**
- Big Picture Question Poster

**Journal and Prayer**
- Journal Page
- “Worthy of Worship” activity page
WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY "When your parents or teachers give you a direction to follow and you do it, how do they usually respond? Why do you think your obedience makes them happy?"

ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Wilderness Review” on the activity page.

SAY "God has always been faithful to His people. He provided everything they needed and gave them instructions on how to live best. He forgave them when they sinned and dwelt with them. He is the only One Who deserves our worship."

SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: MAY I?

Direct kids to stand shoulder to shoulder at one end of the room. Stand at the other end of the room. Call out one kid’s name and give him directions on how to move across the room. For example, “Everett, take two giant steps forward.”

Kids must remember to ask, “May I?” before they carefully follow your directions, or they must return to the start.

Change the directions you give to each kid. Direct them to hop, skip, crawl, walk slowly, dance, and so on, moving forward or backward.

SAY "In order to play the game well, you had to listen carefully and follow the directions I gave. Today we will learn that one of the ways we can worship God is by obeying all that He says."

OPTION 2: WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU

Distribute washable markers and paper. Instruct each kid to write her name at the top. Lead kids to arrange their papers around a table. Then encourage kids to move around the table and write something they admire or like about each kid on her sheet of paper.

Provide enough time so that most kids have written on one another’s papers. Then allow kids to collect their papers and read the words their friends used to describe them.

SAY "How did it make you feel to read nice things about yourself? Today we will discuss how God is worthy of our worship. One of the ways we can worship God is to tell Him all that we love about Him."
INTRODUCE the Bible Story

3 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)
Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

| SAY | Hi, everyone! I’m [your name]. I am so glad you’re here! Do you have your Bible with you? [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] The Bible is the Word of God. Through His Word, God tells us about Himself. He wants to reveal Himself to us; He created us to know Him—for His glory and our joy. Isn’t that amazing? |

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

| SAY | We have been thinking about the big picture question, What is worship? Does anyone remember the answer? [Allow kids to respond.] Worship is celebrating the greatness of God. Let’s say the big picture question and answer together: What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God. God is worthy of all worship because of who He is and what He has done. |

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (2 minutes)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

| SAY | Through a series of miracles, God had delivered His people from captivity in Egypt. The Israelites headed into the wilderness on their way to the promised land. Their journey, however, was not just to move them from one place to another; it was also a time when their hearts were to be moved in worship for their God, their true Rescuer.

We have talked quite a bit about worship so far, haven’t we? That’s an important big truth of the Bible that we see here and will continue to see as we move throughout the Old and New Testaments.

Today, we will spend more time talking about worship and why God deserves all our worship. To help us do that, we are going to look at the first few chapters in the Book of Leviticus. |
LEARN the Bible Story

TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Leviticus 1–4. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Deserves Our Worship.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD DESERVES OUR WORSHIP

God gave Moses many laws to show His people what holy living looks like. God is holy and He wants to be with His people, but the Israelites could not keep God's laws perfectly. God gave His people rules about how to live, how to worship, and what to do when they sinned.

One day, God met with Moses at the tabernacle. The tabernacle was a place where God met with His people and where they worshiped Him.

God told Moses, “Speak to the Israelites and tell them what to do when they bring an offering to Me.” Then God gave Moses rules about offerings. Offerings are gifts people give to God, such as money, grain, or animals. Different types of offerings were needed at different times.

God also gave rules about the priests. Priests made the sacrifices that God commanded. The priests took care of the tabernacle, and they taught the people God's rules for holy living. Aaron and his sons served as the priests. God gave them rules about how to offer sacrifices.

When people wanted to praise God, they gave burnt offerings. God deserves our praise. The Israelites praised God for bringing them out of Egypt.

When people wanted to thank God, they gave grain offerings. God deserves our thanks. The Israelites thanked God for providing everything they needed.

When people wanted to celebrate God, they gave fellowship offerings. God deserves to be celebrated. The Israelites celebrated God for dwelling with them, and they honored Him as their King.

When people wanted to say they were sorry for sin, they gave a sin offering. God is honored when people turn away from their sin and turn back to Him. The Israelites needed to make their relationship with God right again. The priest gave an offering so the people could be forgiven.

Christ Connection: God deserves our worship. He created us to be in a relationship with Him, and He has provided salvation from sin through His Son, Jesus. We can worship God by loving and obeying Him as we live to give Him glory.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Show visual aids: Provide pictures of what the tabernacle might have looked like as well as pictures of the garments the priests would have worn during this time.

Call for active listening: Challenge kids to listen for words like celebrate, praise, and worship while you tell the story to help direct their focus to the theme of today's story. Each time they hear these words, they should lift their hands.

God Deserves Our Worship | 91
LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY  
Open your Bible to Leviticus 1. In the first chapters of the Book of Leviticus, God instructed the people how to give offerings for different purposes. Look at Leviticus 1:4. [Choose a volunteer to read the verse aloud.] Giving offerings was a way the people worshiped, praised, and thanked God; it was also a way to ask God for forgiveness of their sins. People would offer a burnt offering as a way to pay for their sins.

Later, God provided Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God, as the final sacrifice for sins. His death would take care of sin once and for all. People would no longer need to offer burnt offerings for their sin because Jesus conquered sin and death. (Hebrews 10:11-14)

God is worthy of all worship because of who He is and what He has done. One of the reasons we praise God is because He provided salvation through Jesus. Do we still give offerings like the ones mentioned in Leviticus? [Allow kids to respond.] No, we don’t. We can praise God and worship Him for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. One of the best ways to show our thanks is to love and trust Him and to follow Him closely by obeying what He says.

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY  
God deserves our worship. He created us to be in a relationship with Him, and He has provided salvation from sin through His Son, Jesus. We can worship God by loving and obeying Him as we live to give Him glory.

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS  (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 5, Session 5” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why did the Israelites have to kill animals for sacrifices?

2. How do you feel when you think about Jesus taking the punishment you deserve for your sin?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT  (3 minutes)

SAY  
Today, we learned that only God deserves worship. Even when we face difficult or scary circumstances, we are to worship God. In New Orleans, where Bobby and LeKeisha Williams are church planters, hurricanes are a regular part of life. Since 1851, the state of Louisiana has been hit by at least 49 hurricanes! In 2020, Hurricane Laura struck Louisiana. Missionaries and volunteers served around 400,000 meals to people who had been affected by the hurricane.

Attach a large sheet of paper to the wall. Lead the kids in brainstorming things that people who have been through a disaster like a hurricane might need. Help them think through
needs that may arise when there is no electricity or clean water. List their ideas on the paper.

**SAY** Missionaries and volunteers respond to disasters. We can help too by praying and giving. Maybe one day some of you will volunteer to help and show Jesus’ love to people who have been through a disaster.

Ask a volunteer to pray for people who have faced or will face disasters this year. Pray also for any missionaries your church supports.

**KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)**

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 95:6-7 together.

**SAY** God desires to have a relationship with us. Let’s continue memorizing Psalm 95:6-7 that reminds us that we are His and He cares for us.

Direct the kids to line up and take them to an outdoor paved area, like a sidewalk or driveway if weather allows. Challenge kids to use sidewalk chalk to write out the key passage from memory. Suggest they decorate the area to encourage anyone who walks by. If no outdoor space is available, use a large sheet of paper and markers. Encourage kids to be creative and draw pictures that remind them of the message of Psalm 95:6-7.

Lead kids to sing “Come, Let’s Worship (Psalm 95:6-7).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

**PRAY (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before transitioning from LEARN to LOVE.

**SAY** God, You are worthy of all worship. Thank You for the salvation and forgiveness we can have through Jesus. We pray that our lives will bring You honor and glory. Amen.
LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Leviticus 1. Remind kids that in Leviticus, the Israelites were near Mount Sinai (I9). God gave instructions about worship and sacrifices; He gave instructions for priests and those serving in the tabernacle. God also gave the Israelites laws for holy living.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around northeastern Egypt.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Leviticus 1:1-2.

SAY God met with Moses and instructed him to tell the people how they should bring their offerings and when they should give their offerings. God is holy, and He deserves all worship. The Israelites would give offerings to worship and praise God or to thank Him or celebrate who God is. Other times, they would give offerings because they had sinned.

Because God is holy, He does not allow sin to go unpunished. In the Book of Leviticus, God showed the people what to do if they sinned against Him and broke the law He gave them. Through Jesus, God provided the way for sin to be paid for once and for all.

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| SAY What does it mean that God is holy? |

Help kids understand that God being holy means that He is perfect and totally set apart from sin. Our sin separates us from Him. God had a plan to rescue people from sin by sending His Son, Jesus, to be the payment for sin. God wants us to live in holiness as His children.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 1:4-7.)

| SAY How can you tell God you are sorry for your sin? |

Lead kids to understand that while we no longer need to offer a sacrifice for our sins, we do need to come to God to deal with our sin. The first step is to trust Jesus as Savior, but Christians will still mess up. It is important for Christians to confess our sins to God, admit that we were wrong, and then turn from that sin. We can pray and confess sin with other believers, and we can seek forgiveness when we have wronged others.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 32:5.)

| SAY What are some ways you can give an offering to God? |

Let kids brainstorm ideas for how they can give an offering to God. While we no longer give grain or fellowship offerings, the best way we can worship God is by surrendering our lives to Him, allowing Him to use our lives as He wants.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 12:1.)
LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: PLATE RACE
Mark a start line across the floor with painter’s tape. Form two teams of kids. Give each team a plate of play food. Challenge each kid to carry a plate of food to the other side of the room and touch the wall. Kids will then bring back the plates and pass them to the next teammates in line. If a kid drops any food, she should pick it up and start again.

SAY "God alone deserves all our worship. Did you know that anything we do can be an act of worship if we do it with a joyful heart, full of love for God? One way missionaries worship God is by serving people in their communities—especially in times of crisis, like after a hurricane, tornado, earthquake, fire, or other natural disaster. What might you say to someone who has just been through a disaster?"
Encourage the kids to do or say something kind and encouraging for someone this week.

☐ OPTION 2: WRITE A WORSHIP SONG
Form groups of three or four kids. Provide poster board and markers for each group. Challenge kids to think of some of the songs they sing at church or at home to worship God. Consider providing hymnals or lyric sheets to spark ideas.

Share the following prompts and guide kids to respond by writing on their posters. When kids finish, invite them to share.

• How would you describe God?
• How do you feel about God and what He has done?
• What do you love about God?
• What could you tell a friend about who God is?
• What are you thankful to God for?

SAY "I love your ideas! The stories we have heard all pointed to one truth: God is worthy of our worship! Let’s live lives that honor and glorify Him."

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)
Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

• What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
• What does the story teach me about myself?
• Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
• Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
• How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God that He desires a relationship with us and praising Him for the salvation we can have through Jesus. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Worthy of Worship” on the activity page.
UNIT 6 | SESSION 1

THE PEOPLE DIDN’T GO INTO THE LAND
NUMBERS 13–14

KEY PASSAGE:
Exodus 15:11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

CHRIST CONNECTION:
The Israelites did not trust God. They rebelled against Him. Jesus trusted God perfectly. He came into the world to take the punishment we deserve for our own rebellion against God. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His kingdom forever.
LEADER Bible Study

If you’ve ever bought a house, you likely know that even the “most perfect” house really isn’t perfect. There seems to always be some compromise that must be made: location, yard size, location of a bathroom, school district, price, and so forth. The choice is then ours to make: do we live with the compromises we need to make, or do we pass on the house—no matter how perfect it is in other ways—and keep looking?

When the Israelites reached the border of the land of Abraham and their ancestors, they sent in twelve men to scout the territory. The report was glowing: The land was amazing—plenty of room and abundant crops. It was perfect in almost every way. There was a concern, and it was a big one: the people living there were scary-big. Think back to that house you had fallen in love with. You were already imagining what it would be like to live in it. You were deciding where your furniture would go. It seemed too good to be true. But then, you discovered that imperfection, and your hopes and dreams came crashing down. Now magnify that many times over, and you can begin to relate with what the Israelites must have felt like in that moment. Now where would they go? What would they do?

The tragedy of this account is not found in what the people felt in that moment; rather, it is found in their failure to recognize that the land was indeed perfect in every way. There was no drawback or compromise. The people living there were inconsequential. Why? Because this was the land of promise—of God’s promise. The same God who had promised this land to them and to their ancestors before them was the same God who had revealed His infinite power in rescuing them from the Egyptians. He was the same God who was with them at that moment. Did they believe the people were too big, or did they believe God was too small?

Joshua, Caleb, and Moses would try to plead with the people to trust in God, but the people refused. Instead of entering the land in faith, they turned from the land in fear. Not one of the adults of that generation, except Joshua and Caleb, would step foot into that land. Instead, they were forced to wander in the wilderness of judgment because of their rebellion against God. That is the tragedy of this account.
**GATHER** Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.

### Activity Page
- “Faith or Fear?” activity page

### Session Starter (Option 2)
- sticky notes

### Introduce the Session
- countdown video

### Big Picture Question
- Big Picture Question Poster

### Review the Timeline
- Giant Timeline

### Tell the Bible Story
- “The People Didn’t Go Into the Land” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

### Questions from Kids
- “Unit 6, Session 1” questions from kids video

### Missions Moment
- “The Spread of the Gospel” missions video

### Key Passage Activity
- Key Passage Poster
- “Lord, Who Is Like You (Exodus 15:11)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)

### Activity Choice (Option 1)
- Printable: “Door Hanger”
- heavyweight paper
- stickers

### Activity Choice (Option 2)
- Big Picture Question Poster
- heavyweight cord

### Journal and Prayer
- Journal Page
- “Fill It In” activity page
**WELCOME Kids**

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| SAY | Think of a time you felt afraid. What did you do? How did you overcome your fear? |

**ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)**

Invite kids to complete “Faith or Fear?” on the activity page.

| SAY | Sometimes having faith is hard, especially when we’re scared. God’s Word helps us to trust in God even when we feel afraid. |

**SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)**

**OPTION 1: FEAR CATEGORIES**

Form two or more teams of kids. Give each team a piece of paper and a pencil. Instruct kids to designate one player on their teams as the writer.

Explain that you will call out a letter in the alphabet. Teams will have 20 seconds to think of and write down something people might fear that begins with that letter. Then call on each team to read its answer. Award a point for any unique answers. Teams who share another team’s answer receive no points.

Continue playing, calling out other letters (A, B, C, D, F, H, R, S, T, W) for additional rounds as time allows.

| SAY | How do you react when facing something you fear? In today’s story, we will hear how the Israelites’ fear kept them from entering the land God promised. |

**OPTION 2: WHOM CAN YOU TRUST?**

Give each kid two or three sticky notes. Prompt them to write on each sticky note people they can trust (parent or teacher, for example—not specific names). Kids may also list qualities that make someone trustworthy.

Instruct kids to post their sticky notes on a focal wall. Lead them to study the people on the notes. Talk about what makes a person trustworthy. Discuss the difficulty of trusting someone who has let you down and the ease of trusting someone who is consistently faithful.

| SAY | Today’s Bible story is about a time when the Israelites struggled to trust God. God had always been faithful to the Israelites, but they doubted that He would take care of them. Let’s find out what happened to the Israelites. |
INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY Hello! It is so good to see you today. I’m [your name]. If you brought your Bible today, hold it up. [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] Can anyone tell me what the Bible is about? [Allow kids to respond.] The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us the wonderful story of God’s plan to rescue sinners.

In the Bible, we can read about real people and events that happened long ago. These stories teach us important truths about our world and God, who made it all.

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY This week, we have a new big picture question and answer: What is God like? Now that is a great question. What words would you use to describe God? [Allow kids to respond.] Thank you for sharing those ideas! We are going to focus on three words: God is holy, good, and loving. We know what good and loving means; do you know what holy means? God’s holiness describes His perfect goodness, purity, and righteousness.

Let’s say our big picture question and answer together: What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving. As you hear a story from the Bible, listen for ways God showed His holiness, goodness, or love.

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY Let’s think about how we got to today’s story. In the beginning, God created the world. After sin entered the world through Adam and Eve’s disobedience, God promised to provide the solution for the problem of sin. He promised to bring the Rescuer through Abraham’s family.

The descendants of Abraham’s grandson Jacob—who were called Israelites—were slaves in Egypt. Moses delivered them out of Egypt and led them toward the promised land. Moses had led the Israelites through the wilderness, and the time had come to enter the land. But first, the Israelites wanted to scout the land God had promised to give them.

Today’s Bible story is called “The People Didn’t Go into the Land.” Uh-oh. That’s not what God wanted for His people. Let’s find out what happened.
Moses and the Israelites made their way toward the promised land of Canaan (KAY nuhn). God told Moses to send men to scout out the land. So Moses chose one leader from each family tribe. He told them to see what the land was like, and whether the people living there were strong or weak, many or few.

So the 12 scouts went into the land and traveled around for 40 days. They cut down a cluster of grapes that was so big it took two men to carry it on a pole. Then they went back to tell Moses and the other Israelites what they saw.

“The land is good. It is flowing with milk and honey,” they said. “But the people who live there are strong, and the cities they live in are large and well protected.”

Then Caleb, one of the men sent to scout out the land, spoke up, “We must go up and take possession of the land! We can certainly conquer it with God’s help!”

One other scout, Joshua, agreed with Caleb.

But the other scouts disagreed. “We can’t go up against the people! They are stronger than we are. We looked like grasshoppers compared to them!”

The Israelites were afraid, and they cried all night. They accused Moses of bringing them to Canaan to die. The people said, “Let’s choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!”

Joshua and Caleb said, “The land we explored is extremely good land. If the Lord is pleased with us, He will give it to us. Don’t be afraid of the people living in the land; God is with us!”

While the people talked, God came down to talk to Moses. “How long will these people not trust Me?” God asked. God threatened to destroy all the people, but Moses urged God to forgive them. Moses reminded God that He is patient, loving, and forgiving.

God said, “Since you asked, I will forgive them. But no one who complained against Me will get to see the promised land.” God said the Israelites would wander in the wilderness and would not enter the promised land. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the Israelites’ children would one day enter the land.

Christ Connection: The Israelites did not trust God. They rebelled against Him. Jesus trusted God perfectly. He came into the world to take the punishment we deserve for our own rebellion against God. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His kingdom forever.”
THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

**REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY**

**SAY** Open your Bible to Numbers 13. Who told Moses to send scouts into Canaan? [Choose a volunteer to read aloud verses 1 and 2.] In verse 2, what did God say He was going to give the Israelites? [Allow kids to respond.] Before Moses chose the 12 scouts to go into Canaan, God already planned to give them the land.

God knows all things, so was God surprised that the people living in the land were big and strong? This was the perfect opportunity for the Israelites to show their faith in God by going into the land, trusting that He would go with them. Did any of the scouts have faith that God would give them the land? Let’s look at Numbers 13:30. [Choose a volunteer to read the verse aloud.] Joshua and Caleb showed faith in the Lord, but the people still doubted and cried in fear.

Because the Israelites did not trust in God’s faithfulness to give them the promised land, they faced consequences for their sin: 40 years of wandering in the wilderness—one year for every day the scouts were in the land. We can trust in God because He is good, and He keeps His promises.

**CHRIST CONNECTION**

**SAY** The Israelites did not trust God. They rebelled against Him. Jesus trusted God perfectly. He came into the world to take the punishment we deserve for our own rebellion against God. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His kingdom forever. (Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

**QUESTIONS FROM KIDS** *(3 minutes)*

Show the “Unit 6, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Is it wrong to be afraid of things? Why?
2. What can you do when you feel afraid?

**MISSIONS MOMENT** *(3 minutes)*

**SAY** In our story, only Joshua and Caleb trusted God and wanted to go into the promised land. The rest of the scouts were afraid of the Canaanites and refused to obey God in faith. God calls many people to be missionaries all over the world, and they have to step out in faith too.

Can you imagine growing up without ever hearing the name Jesus or hearing any stories from the Bible? There are people in the world today—including in our own community—who have never heard of Jesus. The world needs missionaries who are willing to teach people the good news of the gospel.

Play the missions video. Then pray that God will send more missionaries to places where people have never heard the gospel. Pray also for missionaries your church supports.
KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)
Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Exodus 15:11 together.

| SAY  | Exodus 15:11 shows us what God is like. Let’s learn this verse together. |

Write the key passage on a dry erase board. Lead the kids to read it aloud together. Erase one or two words and challenge kids to read it aloud again, saying the missing words from memory. Continue until all words are erased and see if kids can recite the verse with no words on the board.

Lead kids to sing “Lord, Who Is Like You (Exodus 15:11).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

PRAY (2 minutes)
Invite kids to pray before transitioning from LEARN to LOVE.

| SAY  | Father, You are holy, good, and loving. There is no other like You. Thank You for Your love for us. Guide us to obey You and trust You in all things, even when we’re afraid. We thank You and praise You for Jesus and that He took our sin upon Himself on the cross so we can be forgiven when we repent and believe. Amen. |
LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)
Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Numbers 13. Explain that many stories in the Bible took place in the areas on the map. Ask a volunteer to find Canaan (G9) on the map. Share with the kids that Canaan is the place where Moses sent 12 scouts in today’s story.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Israel.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Numbers 14:6-9.

SAY The scouts went into Canaan to explore the land God had promised to give the Israelites. The Israelites did not trust God to give them the promised land. Only two spies, Joshua and Caleb, said they could take the land with God’s help. But the Israelites wouldn’t listen to them.

GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)
Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| SAY | How did God punish the Israelites for not trusting Him? |
|     | Guide kids to discuss how God made the Israelites wander in the wilderness. The people who refused to obey God would never enter the promised land. Instead, they would die in the wilderness during the next 40 years. Because of their trust in God’s promise, Joshua and Caleb would be allowed to enter the promised land. |
|     | (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Num. 14:30-31.) |

| SAY | How does Joshua remind us of Jesus? |
|     | Guide kids to recall that Joshua and Caleb trusted God. God planned for Joshua to lead the next generation of Israelites into the promised land. Joshua was not perfect, but His faithfulness reminds us of Jesus, who is perfect. Jesus obeyed the Father and trusted His plan to save people from their sins. |
|     | (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Deut. 28:1-2.) |

| SAY | How might our beliefs about God affect how we react in hard times? |
|     | Prompt kids to discuss what the Israelites believed about God. What did Joshua and Caleb believe about God? Point out that Joshua and Caleb understood that obeying God was always the right choice. It can be hard for us to know how to make the right choice sometimes, especially when other people are making wrong choices. Remind kids that when we are afraid or have doubt, we can always pray and ask God for help to follow and obey Him. |
|     | (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 3:5-6.) |
LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: DOOR HANGER

Before the session, print copies of the “Door Hanger” printable on heavyweight paper. Make enough copies for each kid to have one door hanger.

SAY God was ready to give His people the land He had promised, but they were afraid. God wants us to be part of His mission to save people through His Son, Jesus. We can give money to support missionaries, and we can pray. Pray for people who have never heard the gospel. Jesus told His disciples that the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. That means many people are ready to hear and believe the gospel; Christians must go and tell them. We can be a part of what God is doing when we pray.

Give each kid a door hanger and a marker. Encourage them to write on the front of the door hanger, Quiet please! I’m praying. On the back, ask them to write, Pray for unreached people. Encourage them to use stickers and markers to decorate their door hanger.

☐ OPTION 2: TRUST BRACELETS

Instruct the kids to make two trust bracelets, one for themselves and another for a friend or family member. Provide three lengths of yarn or string for each kid to braid.

SAY God is always with us. When we are afraid and it is difficult to trust Him, the bracelet can remind us of His love and provision for us. What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

Point out how the bracelet’s strong braid can serve as a reminder of the power of God and how He is stronger than anything we may face.

Encourage kids to give the second bracelet to a friend or family member. Kids should explain the purpose of the bracelet and how it can be a reminder of God’s power and trustworthiness.

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

• What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
• What does the story teach me about myself?
• Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
• Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
• How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for His love. Ask God to help kids trust Him no matter what. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Fill It In” on the activity page.
UNIT 6 | SESSION 2

MOSES DISOBEYED GOD
NUMBERS 20

KEY PASSAGE:
Exodus 15:11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

CHRIST CONNECTION:
Moses disobeyed God and did not enter the promised land. We all have disobeyed God by sinning. But God gave us His Son, Jesus. Jesus always obeyed God. When we trust in Him, Jesus brings us into God’s kingdom forever.
LEADER Bible Study

Many of us categorize sins, whether we intend to or not. There are the major sins—the really bad ones like murder that are clearly wrong. Thankfully, few of us are prone to commit these sins, so we are pretty safe from them.

Then there are the significant sins, like getting angry or lying. We know these are harmful, but we don’t see them on the same level as the major ones. These are the sins that trip us up. If it weren’t for these sins, we would be such good people. Then there are the little sins, like jaywalking or taking some paper clips from work. We know these are wrong, but they are so innocent and do so little harm that we tend to excuse them. In fact, we often live as if these sins are not really sins—they don’t feel wrong to us.

Sound familiar? There’s a big problem with this though. While sins might have different consequences, the Bible teaches that all sins are serious because they are rebellion against a holy God. Even if all we ever did was jaywalk, God would be just to pour out His wrath on us.

If we approach Numbers 20 with a flawed categorization of sin, we will likely walk away from this passage confused. What did Moses do that was so wrong? All he did was hit a rock instead of speaking what God said, right? And for that, God would not allow Moses to enter the promised land. After all that Moses had been through, this was how his story would end?

But we must remember that all sin is rebellion against God and is therefore serious. Moses’ rebellion here is quite serious. Notice what Moses, with Aaron standing next to him, said just before striking the rock: “Must we bring water out of this rock for you?” Who was Moses crediting for the miracle that would transpire? Surely not God.

That water flowed from the rock even in Moses’ disobedience shows once more that God is a God of mercy and grace. But there is another way we see God’s mercy and grace in this account, only we need to turn to the Gospels to see it. God graciously allowed Moses to enter the land long after this generation had died off. At the Transfiguration (Matt. 17), Moses stood in the land—along with Elijah—and Jesus, the One who had come to provide living water to God’s people.
GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.
**WELCOME Kids**

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| SAY | Think about a time you disobeyed someone. Were there consequences? What were they? |

**ACTIVITY PAGE** (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Easy or Hard” on the activity page.

| SAY | Which instructions on the activity page would be easy to obey? Which ones are harder to obey? In today’s Bible story, we’ll learn about some instructions God gave Moses. Do you think they were easy or hard to obey? |

**SESSION STARTER** (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1: HAVE YOU EVER?**

Instruct kids to stand. Ask them, “Have you ever ... ” and read one of the prompts. Kids who can answer yes should sit down. Continue until all kids are seated. Prompts:

- ... left your room a mess after your mom told you to pick up?
- ... played ball indoors when you know you shouldn’t?
- ... pushed a kid when you were angry?
- ... spoken disrespectfully to an adult?
- ... refused to share a toy or video game?
- ... taken something an adult said you weren’t allowed to have?
- ... jumped on the bed after your dad told you to stop?
- ... stayed up after your grandma sent you to bed?

| SAY | We’ve all disobeyed. Why do you think we disobey our parents or teachers? Why do we disobey God? In today’s Bible story, we will hear about a time Moses disobeyed God. What do you think happened? Let’s find out. |

**OPTION 2: HIDDEN MESSAGES**

Before the session, cut rock shapes from white paper. Use white crayon to write God provides on some of the rock shapes and Obey God on others.

Distribute rock shapes, watercolor paints, and paintbrushes. Explain how to brush paint over the rock to reveal the hidden message.

| SAY | God provides! What are some things God has provided for you? [Pause for kids to respond.] Today we are going to hear about a time God provided water for His people in the wilderness. God told Moses to speak to a rock. Sounds simple, right? But this story doesn’t exactly have a happy ending. Let’s find out what went wrong. |
INTRODUCE the Bible Story

INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)
Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY Welcome! I’m [your name]. I am so glad you are here. Now, please follow my instructions. Ready? Stand up. [Allow kids to stand and as soon as they stand, ask them to jump. As soon as they jump, ask them to sit. Once they sit, ask them to stand again.]

You may be wondering why I asked you to stand, jump, and sit. Well, today our Bible story is about obeying God and following His instructions. Today, we will see if Moses followed God’s instructions. [Instruct kids to sit.] Do you think Moses obeyed or disobeyed God?

BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY Last week, we learned a new big picture question: What is God like? Does anyone remember the answer? [Allow kids to respond.] The answer is, God is holy, good, and loving. What are some ways we know this is true? How has God demonstrated his holiness, goodness, and love? [Invite kids to share their thoughts.] As you hear today’s Bible story, listen for ways God showed He is holy, good, and loving.

REVIEW THE TIMELINE (2 minutes)
Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY God’s people were already in a hard place. They had been to the edge of the promised land and refused to go in. So God sent them into the wilderness to wander for 40 years. Still, God was with His people and provided for them. Today’s story is called ‘Moses Disobeyed God.’ Why would Moses do that? Let’s find out what went wrong.
LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Numbers 20. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Moses Disobeyed God.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

MOSES DISOBEYED GOD

The Israelites did not trust God to lead them into the promised land, so God made them wander in the wilderness for 40 years. **God’s people set up camp, but there was no water to drink. The people complained and argued with Moses.**

“Why did you bring us here?” they asked. **“We will die here, and so will our animals.” The people wished they had never left Egypt. The wilderness had no grain, no fruit, and no water.**

Moses and Aaron went to the tabernacle to meet with God. **God told Moses and Aaron to stand in front of all the people and speak to a rock. God said water would come out of the rock.** Then the people and animals would have water to drink.

So Moses **called the people together** and stood in front of the rock. **But instead of talking to the rock, he** told the group, “Listen up! Do we have to bring water out of this rock for you?” Then Moses **hit the rock twice with his staff.** Water poured out, and the people and animals drank.

**But God was angry that Moses and Aaron did not obey His instructions.** They did not **honor Him as holy by trusting in His power. So God said Moses and Aaron would not lead the Israelites into the promised land.** Instead, God would give His people a new leader.

Christ Connection: Moses disobeyed God and did not enter the promised land. We all have disobeyed God by sinning. But God gave us His Son, Jesus. Jesus always obeyed God. When we trust in Him, Jesus brings us into God’s kingdom forever.

STORYTELLING TIPS

**Use props:** Bring an empty cup and an empty water jug to help illustrate the thirst God’s people experienced in the story.

**Make eye contact:** Draw kids into the Bible story by making eye contact as you speak.
LEARN
THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY "Open your Bible to Numbers 20. Why did the Israelites complain to Moses? Look at verses 2-5. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Num. 20:2-5.] The Israelites were thirsty and needed water for their animals too.

The wilderness was a dry and desolate place, similar to a desert. The Israelites couldn't just go to the store to buy supplies; they needed to find a water source. But there was no good water anywhere close. They were desperate. The Israelites began arguing, complaining, and doubting God's faithfulness to provide.

Moses and Aaron knelt down in the tabernacle and prayed for God to provide. God gave Moses two specific instructions. Let's look at verses 7-8 and read the instructions God gave Moses. [Choose a volunteer to read the verses aloud.]

Moses obeyed the first instruction, but the second instruction is where he disobeyed. Why do you think Moses decided to strike the rock instead of speaking to it?

Moses' disobedience made God angry. What was Moses' consequence for not obeying God's instruction to speak to the rock? Moses would not be allowed to enter the promised land. It wasn't just that Moses did not do what God asked; his actions revealed that He did not trust God. God wanted to show His holiness, but Moses had claimed he and Aaron would bring water from the rock.

God is serious about sin. Like Moses, we too have consequences for our disobedience. But the good news is God gave us His Son, Jesus, to take our sin upon Himself on the cross. When we trust in Him, our sins are forgiven and we can enter the promised land of eternity."

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY "Moses disobeyed God and did not enter the promised land. We all have disobeyed God by sinning. But God gave us His Son, Jesus. Jesus always obeys God. When we trust Him, He brings us into God's kingdom forever."

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 6, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why was it a big deal that Moses hit the rock?
2. Do you take all sin seriously? Why or why not?
LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY God had compassion on His people and provided water, but when Moses disobeyed God, his sin had consequences. Our sin has consequences too, and we can only be forgiven through Jesus. Many people in the world have never heard of Jesus. We often refer to people like that as unreached. Today we’re going to learn about one man who felt so much compassion for unreached people that he spent most of his life far from his home country as a missionary.

Show the Samuel Zwemer (zuh-WAY-mer) photos. Draw attention to Samuel with his wife and children. Explain that the men standing near the wall are Muslims, the people whom Samuel felt called to go to. Point out that Samuel adopted their style of dress at times. Discuss why he may have done that.

Challenge kids to listen for Samuel’s name as you read the story. When they hear it, guide them to use both hands to cover the tops of their heads, as a symbol of the head covering that Samuel is wearing in the picture.

Read the story. Then ask a volunteer to pray, thanking God for missionaries like Samuel Zwemer. Be sure to pray for any missionaries your church supports.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, write each word of the key passage on a separate sticky note. Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Exodus 15:11 together.

SAY Last week, we introduced our new key passage from Exodus 15:11. It shows us about who God is and what He is like. Does anybody remember it? [Allow a volunteer to recite it from memory.] Memorizing Scripture is important as it helps us remember the truth about who God is, what He is like, and how we can always trust Him.

Give each kid a prepared sticky note and challenge them to arrange themselves in the correct order. Lead kids to sing “Lord, Who Is Like You (Exodus 15:11).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning from LEARN to LOVE.

SAY Father, thank You for Your Word and how it teaches us to trust You. Help us to follow Jesus’ example in His obedience to You. We love You and praise You for always providing for our needs. Amen.
LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)
Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Numbers 20. Explain that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Ask a volunteer to find the area of Sinai (G9) on the map.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the area of northeast Egypt.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Numbers 20:12.

SAY We know that God is good and is always faithful. Because of God’s faithfulness, we can trust Him even when life is hard. God wants us to trust Him so that His holiness and glory can be displayed in and through us.

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)
Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| SAY | Why was God angry that Moses disobeyed? |
God was angry that Moses disobeyed because Moses didn’t trust God. When we disobey God, it’s because we choose to do things our way, instead of God’s way. Disobedience comes from our lack of trust in God. God’s way is always best, even if we think we have a better way.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Gen. 3:6-7.)

| SAY | What can we do to help us obey when obeying is hard? |
Guide kids to remember that God’s Word can help us when we doubt. Remind kids that God’s Word points to God’s faithfulness, love, and goodness.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 28:7.)

| SAY | What can we learn from Jesus about obeying? |
Lead kids to discuss how Jesus is the perfect example of obedience. Jesus obeyed the Father to the point of death on the cross for the sin of the world. Emphasize that because of what Jesus faced on the cross, we should strive to obey with joy.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 2:8.)
LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: ZWEMER REVIEW

Guide the kids to sit in a circle, and give a ball to one kid. Explain that you will ask a review question to the person holding the ball. As soon as you ask the question, he will pass the ball to his right. If he can’t answer the question by the time the ball makes it around the circle back to him, he has to sit in the middle.

Give the ball to different kids in the circle as you ask review questions. Any player who doesn’t answer before the ball moves around the circle will replace the person in the middle.

SAY “Moses disobeyed God and was not allowed to enter the promised land. All of us are born in sin, and we all disobey God. We need to hear the gospel, turn from sin, and believe the gospel in order to be with God forever. Missionaries like Samuel Zwemer dedicate their lives to telling others the gospel so that people will have the chance to repent and be saved.”

☐ OPTION 2: TRUST ROCKS

Distribute permanent markers and smooth stones. Ask the kids if they’ve ever seen water come out of a rock.

Instruct the kids to write “Trust Him” on the stone. Encourage kids to take home these trust rocks and place them in an area they will see every day: on a nightstand, under their pillow, by the sink where they brush their teeth, and so on.

SAY “What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving. These trust rocks can serve as a reminder not only of our story, but also to trust and obey God no matter what we face. Place these rocks where you can see them every day so you will remember to trust Him in all things.”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

• What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
• What does the story teach me about myself?
• Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
• Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
• How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for His goodness and love for us. Praise Him for who He is. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Attributes of God” on the activity page.
UNIT 6 | SESSION 3

GOD HEALED THE PEOPLE

N U M B E R S  2 1

KEY PASSAGE:
Exodus 15:11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

CHRIST CONNECTION:
God sent snakes to punish the people, but anyone who was bitten could look at the snake on the pole and live. We deserve to die because of our sin, but anyone who looks to Jesus on the cross and trusts in Him will live forever with God.
LEADER Bible Study

If there was one thing the Israelites were good at, it was grumbling. They weren’t just good; they were experts: “We have no food. We have no water. Why are we in the wilderness left to die? The land has big people in it.” And on and on and on. We have to wonder how Moses put up with it all.

In Numbers 21, we encounter another time when the people grumbled—once again about food and water. Each time they doubted God’s goodness and truthfulness, God had shown them mercy and grace. But on this day, He sent serpents into the Israelites’ camp to strike them for their unfaithfulness. Many people died.

We might not like to think of it, but this is what the Israelites deserved all along. Their sin earned them judgment and death. God was perfectly just and righteous to give His people what they deserved.

Yet, as we have seen so often in the Old Testament and will continue to see throughout the rest of Scripture, God extends grace and mercy along with judgment. When the people pleaded for Moses to intercede on their behalf, God instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and lift it on a pole. Whoever looked upon it would be healed.

Notice two things. First, God’s response was not to remove judgment but to provide salvation through judgment. This is another theme we have seen throughout the Scriptures (e.g., Noah, the plagues).

Second, God’s instructions made little to no sense. Imagine you are an Israelite and were just bitten by a serpent. Although other serpents are all around still, you are to take your eyes off of that threat and turn them upward to look at a bronze serpent on a pole—an image of the very thing that has brought death to your door?

This detail in the story is a foreshadowing of what God has called us to do in Christ. While our faith is far from blind, it always has an aspect of not making sense, at least to the world around us. But this is how we are saved too: by taking our eyes off of the sin in and around us, and looking upon Christ lifted up on the cross—He who became sin (2 Cor. 5:21). We too are saved through judgment, for our judgment has been placed on Christ.

BIBLICAL THEME
Salvation through judgment: Throughout the Old Testament, God judged and saved for His glory. Examples:
- the Fall (Gen. 3)
- the Flood (Gen. 6–9)
- the Exodus (Ex. 5–12)
- the battle of Jericho (Josh. 6)
GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.

Activity Page
- “Watch Your Step” activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)
- magnifying glasses

Introduce the Session
- countdown video

Big Picture Question
- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline
- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story
- “God Healed the People” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids
- “Unit 6, Session 3” questions from kids video

Missions Moment
- “Understanding Islam” missions video

Key Passage Activity
- Key Passage Poster
- “Lord, Who Is Like You (Exodus 15:11)” song
- index cards
- worship song of your choice (optional)

Review & Bible Skills
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- world map

Activity Choice (Option 1)
- Printable: “Prayer Walk”

Activity Choice (Option 2)
- Big Picture Question Poster
- ziplock bags
- individually-wrapped snacks
- travel-size toiletries (soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, bandages, treats)
- index cards

Journal and Prayer
- Journal Page
- “Look and Live” activity page
**WELCOME Kids**

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** Have you ever been around someone who complains a lot? Think about how you felt around him or her. Do you complain a lot? Why or why not?

**ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)**

Invite kids to complete “Watch Your Step” on the activity page.

**SAY** We’re all guilty of having a bad attitude at times. When we’re ungrateful, we often lose sight of what is most important. Our story today is going to show us how the Israelites lost sight of trusting God.

**SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)**

**OPTION 1: LOOK, LOOK**

Before the session, print the phrase *Keep Your Eyes on Jesus* in size 2 font on a computer. The idea is to make it small enough that the kids are unable to read it without a magnifying glass.

Print a copy of the tiny text for each kid. Allow them time to try to figure out the phrase on their own. After a few minutes, allow them to use the magnifying glasses to figure it out.

**SAY** What is the point of a magnifying glass? [Allow kids to respond.] A magnifying glass helps us see something small. We look through the magnifying glass and focus our eyes on one thing. In our Bible story today, we’ll learn how the Israelites were told to focus their eyes on something that would heal them. What do you think it was?

**OPTION 2: ACT IT OUT**

Before the session, come up with two or three scenarios for kids to act out in front of the group. (e.g., cleaning their rooms, eating vegetables at dinner, doing dishes)

Choose volunteers to act out their scenario in front of the group. Designate one volunteer for each scenario to have a bad attitude/complaining while the other volunteers complete the scenario with a positive attitude. Allow each group to act out the scenario. Once each group completes their scenario, ask the kids in the class who finished their chores with a good attitude versus a poor attitude.

**SAY** Sometimes we complain and have bad attitudes. When we have a bad attitude, it’s often because we’ve forgotten to be grateful for what we have. In today’s story, we’ll see a good example of how God’s people sinned by complaining.
INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (2 minutes)
Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY Hi, everyone. I’m [your name]. It sure is great to see you today! Did you bring your Bible today? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Can someone tell me why the Bible is important? [Allow a volunteer to respond.] The Bible is important because it tells us the incredible story of God’s plan to save sinners. In it, God tells us everything we need to know to have a relationship with Him. The stories in the Bible really happened, and whether you hear a story for the first time or the hundredth time, there is always something new to discover.

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY Who remembers our big picture question? [Pause for kids to respond.] What is God like? We could answer that question in many ways, but the answer we’ve been learning is, God is holy, good, and loving.

I’ll ask the question, and then you say the answer: What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving. As you hear today’s Bible story, listen for ways God showed He is holy, good, or loving.

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (2 minutes)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY When sin entered God’s perfect world, God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden. They deserved to die for their sin, but they didn’t die right away. We’ve seen that God loves people and wants to rescue us from sin. Through the Israelites, God was working out His plan to send a Savior. Even when the Israelites disobeyed God or complained, He showed them grace and mercy. Today’s Bible story is called ‘God Healed the People.’ Healed? Do you think they were sick? Let’s find out.
LEARN the Bible Story

3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)
Open your Bible to Numbers 21. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Healed the People.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD HEALED THE PEOPLE

Moses and the Israelites traveled in the wilderness on a long journey. The people were impatient, and they complained. “Why did you lead us into the wilderness? We are going to die here. There is no bread. There is no water. We don’t like the food we have!”

God responded by sending venomous snakes that bit the Israelites. Many of the people died.

The Israelites went to Moses and said, “We sinned by complaining. Please talk to God for us. Ask Him to take away the snakes.”

So Moses spoke to God for the people. God told Moses what to do: “Make a snake image and put it on a pole. When anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will recover.”

Moses did what God said. He made a bronze snake and mounted it on a pole. Whenever someone was bitten, that person looked at the bronze snake and recovered.

Christ Connection: God sent snakes to punish the people, but anyone who was bitten could look at the snake on the pole and live. We deserve to die because of our sin, but anyone who looks to Jesus on the cross and trusts in Him will live forever with God.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use props: Bring in a staff and/or rubber snake to illustrate the story.

Vary tone: As you tell the story, draw kids’ attention by changing your tone when speaking dialogue. Slow your pace or emphasize key words.
LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY "Open your Bible to Numbers 21. What was the reason the Israelites complained? Let’s look at verse 5 together. [Choose a volunteer to read verse 5 aloud."

Last week, our story was from Numbers 20. The Israelites did something similar to what they did in this week’s story. The Israelites complained about not having any water. This week in Numbers 21, the Israelites complained again about not having bread or water, and they didn’t like the food they had. On and on the Israelites traveled, and on and on they complained.

Let’s look together in the New Testament at Philippians 2:14-16. The apostle Paul spoke about an attitude of complaining and arguing. [Choose a volunteer to read the verses aloud.] Think about the many ways God had provided for His people over and over. Yet, they continued to complain and doubted God’s presence, care, and ability to provide.

The complaining made God angry, and He punished the Israelites by sending venomous snakes that bit the Israelites. After God sent the snakes, how did the Israelites respond? They begged Moses to ask God to take the snakes away.

Although there were consequences for the people’s sin, God showed mercy. God gave Moses instructions to make a bronze snake and mount it on a pole. God told Moses that when people were bitten, if they looked at the bronze snake, they would recover. Even though the Israelites had sinned against God, He still loved them and gave them a way to be saved. Like the Israelites, we have sinned. But because of God’s mercy, when we look to Jesus to save us, we too can be forgiven.

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY "God sent snakes to punish the people, but anyone who was bitten could look at the snake on the pole and live. We deserve to die because of our sin, but anyone who looks to Jesus on the cross and trusts in Him will live forever with God."

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 6, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why did God let the snakes bite the Israelites?

2. How might the consequences of your sin lead you to turn back to God?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY "God’s people only had to look at the bronze snake to be healed. In a similar way, everyone who turns to Jesus for forgiveness will find spiritual healing and eternal life with God. That’s the good news of the gospel, and it’s what missionaries share with people around the world each day."
Last week we learned about Samuel Zwemer (zuh-WAY-mer), one of the very first missionaries to Muslims. This week we’re going to learn a little more about Islam and how we can be praying for Muslims and the missionaries who serve them.

Show the missions video. Then ask for a volunteer to pray for Muslims and for the missionaries who serve them. Pray also for missionaries your church supports.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session begins, write the words to the key passage on index cards. Then hide the index cards around the room.

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Exodus 15:11 together. Challenge the kids to go on the key passage hunt and find each index card. Once kids find all the cards, ask them to put the words in order. If time allows, mix up the cards and allow the kids to put them in order again.

SAY “This is our third week learning this key passage. Does anyone know it from memory? [Ask for a volunteer to recite the key passage.] Our key passage helps us know what God is like. Because these words come from the Bible, we can know they are true.”

Lead kids to sing “Lord, Who Is Like You (Exodus 15:11).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning from LEARN to LOVE.

SAY “Lord, thank You for who You are. Thank You for always loving us and providing for us. Help us to trust You even when life is hard. We thank You and praise You for Your love for us and for sending Your Son, Jesus. Amen.”
LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS  (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Numbers 21. Explain that the Israelites were taking a route to avoid the land of Edom (H10). This was not the first time the Israelites had complained to God and doubted His faithfulness to provide. Ask kids if they remember another time when God’s people complained.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around Israel and Jordan.) Choose volunteers to read aloud Numbers 21:5.

SAY God’s people grumbled and complained. Why do you think they did that? [Pause for kids to respond.] We have God’s Word that we can read and see what God was doing. He had called Moses and was working out His plan to rescue His people from Egypt and keep His promise to give them the promised land. God desires that we trust Him, even when we don’t understand His plan.

2 GROUP DISCUSSION  (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| SAY Why do you think the Israelites doubted God? |

Guide the kids to discuss the consequences for Israel’s sin. Emphasize how consequences are the result of our sin and how the consequences helped change the attitude of the Israelites.

(Optional: Choose a volunteer to read Num. 21:5-6.)

| SAY How does looking to Jesus help us trust Him? |

Lead kids to discuss that the punishment Jesus took on the cross wasn’t for His sin, but ours. Knowing Jesus took the blame for our sin, it should lead us to take our sin very seriously. By remembering Jesus, we have hope because of His sacrifice for us.

(Optional: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Cor. 5:21.)

| SAY How can we live in a way that reflects our trust in God? |

Help kids to discuss that our obedience reflects our trust in God. Jesus perfectly obeyed God and we should follow His example in all we say, think, and do. By living for Jesus, we declare our trust that God is on His throne and loving us.

(Optional: Choose a volunteer to read John 14:15.)
LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: PRAYER WALK
Before the session, post the prayer walk footprints in different places around the room. Search online for information about the number of Muslims living in your area.

SAY As the Israelites had only to look at the bronze snake to be healed, sinners must only look to Jesus to find forgiveness and eternal life. Muslims in all parts of the world need to hear this good news. Today we’re going to take a walk around the room and pray for Muslims. In some countries, Islam is pretty much the only religion. Those countries need missionaries. In the United States, the number of followers of Islam is growing every year. Let’s pray that God provides them with people—maybe even you or me—to tell them about Jesus.

Share information about Muslims living in your community. Lead the kids to the different footprints, and encourage volunteers to lead the group in prayer at each stop.

☐ OPTION 2: TRUST PACKAGE
Explain that one of the ways we can honor God is to trust that He will provide for our needs. Share how God often provides through others.

Instruct kids to put together a trust package containing basic needs for others (individually-wrapped snacks and travel-size toiletries). Invite them to write a note of encouragement including the key passage and include it in the package.

Encourage the kids to take home the trust package and pray that God would show them who they can give it to.

SAY A simple bag with basic supplies inside may be exactly what someone needs to be reminded that they can trust God to provide for their needs. By putting these trust packages together, you can be part of God’s plan to provide for someone in need. We can show others what God is like. What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)
Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

• What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
• What does the story teach me about myself?
• Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
• Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
• How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for His love and provision. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Look and Live” on the activity page.
UNIT 6 | SESSION 4

NO ONE IS LIKE GOD

1 PETER 1

KEY PASSAGE:
Exodus 15:11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:
What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

CHRIST CONNECTION:
No one is like God. God is holy, good, and loving. Jesus shows us what God is like and gives us hope. God can make us more like Jesus. We can trust Him and live joyfully for Him.
LEADER Bible Study

Peter began his first epistle by reminding believers that we are not of this world; our true citizenship is found in God’s kingdom. As such, we live in the present world as exiles and ambassadors—representatives of our true King.

With this reminder established, Peter explained how Christ’s ambassadors are to live, which can be summed up in God’s words recorded at the end of 1 Peter 1:16, “Be holy, because I am holy.” Peter draws this imperative from Leviticus 11:44-45, where God had told the Israelites this twice in rapid succession.

To be holy is to be set apart, to be different in a good way. As such, holiness is at the core of the Old Testament law. The reason behind many of God’s commands that may make us scratch our heads is holiness. These commands were to teach Israel what it means to be holy and to model holiness to the watching world. All of this points us to the even greater idea of God’s holiness. God’s people—His image bearers—are to imitate God.

So far so good, right? But this is where the wheels fall off of the cart. When we turn our attention to God’s holiness, we quickly come to the point of recognizing that this is an impossible standard. God is perfectly holy. There is absolutely no sin in Him. He is perfectly loving, kind, and good without an ounce of hate or evil. How are we supposed to be this holy? Why would God command us to do something we cannot do?

The answer to that last question is that God gave this command exactly because we cannot do it. We cannot be holy enough—not even close. Not on our own, that is. But the beauty of the gospel shows us another way. We can indeed be holy as God is holy because Christ is holy. And when we trust in Christ, our sin is removed and in its place we are credited with Christ’s perfect righteousness. (2 Cor. 5:21) We obey this command of God by trusting in Christ!

But it doesn’t end there. We are holy in our identity in Christ, but each day we are to strive to live out our new, true holy identity. Every day, our goal is to live as who we now are, rather than who we were. Even this though, is done not in our power, but in Christ’s power. No one is like God in His fullness, but in Christ, we as His children are called and empowered to be like Him in many ways.

Terms to Know

Holy: means “to be separate” and describes God’s character as totally unique and separate from what He has created. God’s holiness describes His perfect goodness, purity, and righteousness.
**GATHER** Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.

- Activity Page
  - “Stained Glass” activity page
- Session Starter (Option 2)
  - dry erase board
  - dry erase markers
- Introduce the Session
  - countdown video
- Big Picture Question
  - Big Picture Question Poster
- Review the Timeline
  - Giant Timeline
- Tell the Bible Story
  - “No One Is Like God” video
  - Bible Story Picture Poster
- Questions from Kids
  - “Unit 6, Session 4” questions from kids video
- Missions Moment
  - Printable: “Living on Mission”
- Key Passage Activity
  - Key Passage Poster
  - “Lord, Who Is Like You (Exodus 15:11)” song
  - masking tape
  - worship song of your choice (optional)

- Activity Choice (Option 1)
  - Printable: “Living on Mission”
- Activity Choice (Option 2)
  - Big Picture Question Poster
  - metal washers, 1 per kid
  - heavyweight string or cord
  - nail polish or colored permanent markers (optional)
- Journal and Prayer
  - Journal Page
  - “What Is God Like?” activity page
WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Do you like change? Think about a time when something changed that you didn’t like. How did you respond?”

ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Stained Glass” on the activity page.

SAY “Few things in life never change. Today, we will learn about somebody who stays the same and never changes. Do you know of someone who has never changed?”

SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

0 OPTION 1: WHAT CHANGED?

Guide kids to choose a partner. Then instruct them to face their partners. Tell the kids they will have 10 seconds to study their partners. Then they will turn back-to-back and they will have 10 more seconds to change something about their appearances.

When the time is up, guide partners to turn back around to face each other and attempt to determine what has changed about their partners’ appearance. Kids can choose new partners if time allows.

SAY “When we trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, our physical appearance may stay the same, but we do change because we are given new life in Jesus. What are some ways a person might change after becoming a Christian? [Allow kids to respond.] Listen closely to today’s story to find out more.”

0 OPTION 2: WHO IS … ?

Give each kid an index card. On the card, a kid should list three words to describe himself. Kids may list physical characteristics, hobbies, or personality traits. Each kid should write his own name at the bottom of the card.

Collect all the cards and read them aloud one at a time. Challenge kids to guess who the words describe.

SAY “No two people are alike. Even identical twins have different thoughts, desires, and interests. God created you just as He planned. In today’s story, we will discover some words we can use to describe who God is and who He wants us to be.”
INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION  (2 minutes)
Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY "Welcome! It’s so good to see you. I’m [your name]. If you brought your Bible, hold it up. [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] Can anyone tell me what the Bible is about? [Allow kids to respond.] The Bible is God’s Word. He gives us the Bible so we can know Him. The Bible tells us the wonderful story of God’s plan to rescue sinners.

What does the Bible teach us about God? [Allow kids to respond.] Thank you for sharing those ideas! There’s no one like God."

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION  (1 minute)

SAY "Our big picture question is, What is God like? Do you remember the three characteristics we’ve been focusing on? [Pause for kids to respond.] God is holy, good, and loving. I’ll ask the big picture question again, and then you whisper the answer. What is God like? [Pause for kids to respond.] God is holy, good, and loving."

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE  (2 minutes)
Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY "When God’s people arrived at the border of the promised land, they disbelieved God’s faithfulness and disobeyed His command by refusing to enter. As a result, God forced His people away from the land to wander in the wilderness where they continued in their disbelief and sin against a good, loving, and holy God.

We have talked quite a bit about what God is like. We will continue to see God’s goodness, love, and holiness on display throughout the Bible.

Today, we will spend more time talking about what God is like and how He is unlike anyone or anything else. To help us do that, we are going to look at 1 Peter 1. First Peter is a book in the New Testament. It’s a letter written by Peter, a follower of Jesus."
LEARN the Bible Story

3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Peter 1. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “No One Is Like God.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

NO ONE IS LIKE GOD

Peter, a follower of Jesus, wrote a letter to Christians. He reminded them of what God had done for them. When a person believes God’s good news about Jesus, it changes the way he or she lives. Peter’s letter encouraged Christians to live like Jesus.

Peter told God’s people that they should be holy. Believers have hope because Jesus will come again. Peter wrote, “Before you trusted in Jesus, you lived however you wanted and did evil things. Jesus gave His life to save you so you could have true life in Him. Jesus is like the perfect lamb that God’s people sacrificed.”

Peter wrote, “Now you are God’s children, so don’t go back to how you used to live. Obey God. He has a better life for you.” Peter reminded believers of God’s words to the Israelites. God had said, “Be holy because I am holy.”

What does it mean to be holy? Being holy means being set apart. It means being different from everyone else. As Creator, God is different from all of His creation. God calls us to be different too. He wants us to be like Him, including in the way we love one another. Before, we cared only about ourselves. We fought and complained. But God is loving, so He wants us to love one another instead. Loving one another isn’t always easy, but it is good.

Peter wrote, “Our life on earth will not last forever. It is like the grass and flowers that fade away.”

Long ago, the Israelites were waiting for God to keep His good promise to send a Rescuer to save people from their sins. Today, we remember that God kept His good promise by sending Jesus. We can be holy because of our hope in Jesus.

Christ Connection: No one is like God. God is holy, good, and loving. Jesus shows us what God is like and gives us hope. God can make us more like Jesus. We can trust Him and live joyfully for Him.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Call for active listening: Challenge kids to count how many times they hear the word holy.

Use pauses: As you tell the Bible story, pause between paragraphs or following dialogue to draw kids’ attention.
LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY ""In the letter Peter wrote, he reminded Christians of God’s instructions to be holy. The word holy means ‘set apart.’ It means being different. Several times in the Old Testament, God said, ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’ [See Lev. 11:44-45.] Have you ever thought about what it means to be holy? Can people really be holy like God?

When we trust in Jesus, we are given a new life. With Jesus as Lord of our lives, we should be different because of our relationship with Him. One way we can be different is in how we love others.

Open your Bible to 1 Peter 1. [Ask a volunteer to read aloud 1 Peter 1:22-23.] Peter said that we should show sincere love for one another constantly. Why? Because we have been born again.

When we obey God, trust in His Word, and love others, they will see the difference in us. What was the difference people saw in Jesus’ life? How was Jesus’ life so different? [Allow kids to answer.]

Jesus is the perfect example of holiness. He loved His Father perfectly and loved others perfectly. While we will never be perfect like Jesus in this life, we can follow His example and hope in Him.

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY ""No one is like God. God is holy, good, and loving. Jesus shows us what God is like and gives us hope. God can make us more like Jesus. We can trust Him and live joyfully for Him."

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 6, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:
1. Can we really be holy like God?
2. How does knowing Jesus change the way you live? How might others recognize if you are a Christian?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY ""God is perfect and holy. No one is like Him, and no idols have power. God wants us to be set apart—holy—as He is holy. Samuel Zwemer (zuh-WAY-mer) wanted Muslims to know that truth, so he shared the gospel with them.

Now missionaries all over the world are doing the same thing. They are sharing the good news of Jesus with people who don’t know Him. Have you ever wondered how to be a missionary? There are some basic ways to share the love of Jesus with your friends, family members, and neighbors. You can live on mission wherever God calls you."

Use the posters to teach the kids some basic ways to show Jesus to the world around them.
As you talk about each of the four strategies, lead kids to discuss what each strategy might look like at school or at home.

Ask a volunteer to pray that God would help the kids show God's love to their friends, family members, and neighbors. Pray also for missionaries your church supports.

### KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, write each word of the verse on a piece of masking tape. Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Exodus 15:11 together.

Instruct the kids to stand facing away from you so you can put a piece of tape on their backs. Then invite the kids to look at each other’s backs to figure out how they can line up in order to show the verse correctly. If time allows, mix the kids and allow them to try again.

**SAY** “Today is the fourth week for learning our key passage. Does anyone know it? [Ask for a volunteer to recite the verse.] What does our key passage tell us about God? [Allow kids to respond.]”

Lead kids to sing “Lord, Who Is Like You (Exodus 15:11).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning from LEARN to LOVE.

**SAY** “Father, You are holy. Help us to be holy like You. We thank You for all that You’ve done for us, are doing for us, and will do for us. We know we don’t deserve it, and we thank You for the grace You show us. Above all, we praise You for what Jesus did for us on the cross. Thank You for Your Word and how it shows us who You are. Amen.”
LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Peter 1. Explain that Peter was in Rome (B1) when he wrote to Christians in several areas like Galatia and Cappadocia (C8). Point kids to the map and ask for volunteers to find the provinces to whom Peter wrote the letter as seen in 1 Peter 1:1.

Consider comparing the New Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Turkey.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Peter 1:15-16.

**SAY** Peter wrote how Christians should live. God commanded His people to be holy. What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving. But wait a second. No one is like God. So how can we be holy? Peter says in verse 3 that God gives us new birth. When we trust in Jesus, our position before God changes from ‘guilty’ to ‘forgiven.’ The Holy Spirit comes to live inside us, and He begins to change us to be more like Jesus—holy, loving, and good.

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** What does it mean to be holy?

Guide kids to discuss the meaning of holiness. Holiness means to be set apart, to be different. Because God is holy, we too should live holy lives.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Pet. 1:16.)

**SAY** How can we be set apart? How can we be different from the world?

Lead kids to discuss how we are made pure through Jesus. When we repent and believe in Jesus, God sees us as righteous and pure. Because of this, our attitudes, thoughts, words, and actions should be different than the world around us.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Pet. 1:22.)

**SAY** How can the way we live point others to Jesus?

Guide kids to discuss how it is obvious when something is different. If your mom’s car is gray, but she comes home and it is green, you will clearly notice the difference. When others see the difference in us, we will have the opportunity to share why we are different and how they can be too.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Col. 3:10.)
LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1: LIVING ON MISSION**

Form four teams of kids. Assign each team one of the four strategies listed on the “Living on Mission” printable. Challenge the teams to think of situations when their assigned strategy might be effective. Teams will plan a short skit to show how they could share the gospel in those ways. Give the kids a few minutes to plan their scenes. Then let them take turns acting them out.

**SAY** God is holy; He is set apart and unlike anything that He created. He wants us to be set apart too. We can be set apart by obeying His commands and spreading the gospel. Sharing the love of Jesus with the people around you doesn’t have to be difficult. You all did a great job showing some of the ways we can live on mission and share the gospel with others.

Encourage the kids to try these four strategies this week in order to be on mission in their school, at dance class, or anywhere else they may go.

**OPTION 2: WASHER WEARS**

Give each kid a metal washer and an 18-inch length of heavyweight string or cord. Consider providing nail polish or colored permanent markers for kids to decorate the washers.

Demonstrate how to fold the string in half and pass the center loop through the washer. Pull the ends of the string through the loop to tie it to the washer. Help kids tie together the ends of their string to form a necklace.

**SAY** What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving. When you wear your necklace or bracelet and see the hole in the washer, remember that God is holy. In our story today, Peter wrote that before we trust in Jesus, we were one way, but knowing Jesus makes us different. Christians should reflect the new life they have in Christ by being holy, good, and loving too. Being a Christian doesn’t mean you will be perfect, but Jesus can transform us to be more like Him every day.

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for His love, grace, and mercy. Praise Him for His holiness. As time allows, lead kids to complete “What Is God Like?” on the activity page.
The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.

**GOD RULES.**
Ask: “Who is in charge at home?” Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.

**WE SINNED.**
Ask: “Have you ever done something wrong?” Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.

**GOD PROVIDED.**
Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.

**JESUS GIVES.**
Ask: “What is the best gift you’ve ever received?” Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.

**WE RESPOND.**
Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: “Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus.” Read Romans 10:9-10.
THE GOSPEL
God's Plan for Us
The Gospel Project is designed to help your kids **LEARN** the gospel story of Scripture, **LOVE** the Author and Subject of that gospel story, and then **LIVE** out their part in this ongoing gospel story.

**WE’RE HERE TO HELP!**

**WEEKLY AUDIO HELPS:**
*Listen to The Gospel Project for Kids in your favorite podcast app*

**BLOG:**
gospelproject.com/resources

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